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ABOVE:
Funeral cortège
with a difference
(SEE PAGE 3)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2012

VICTIM WAS 'PUMMELLED' Man 'lost his rag' after wife's affair

A LOCAL authority manager "completely lost his rag" when he discovered that his wife of 26 years was having an affair.

Phillip Thomas, 51, went to the Maesteg home of Adam Elward-Jones and repeatedly pummelled him to the face, causing him to end up "like a rag doll".

Mr Elward-Jones, 48, suffered a broken cheekbone and nose, and subsequently lost three stone and also suffers depression.

Thomas, of Litchard Park, Bridgend, a man with no previous convictions, admitted a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm.

by AJ SICLUNA

He was jailed for 10 months, the sentence suspended for a year, and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and to pay his victim £1,000 in compensation and prosecution costs of £350.

Judge Patrick Curran said: "The attack was in the presence of the victim's wife, and he was pummelled repeatedly."

Prosecutor John Warren said the attack occurred on September 7 at the Morris Street home of Mr Elward-Jones.

The court was told that Mr Elward-Jones was having an affair with the defendant's wife.

His legs gave way, said Mr Warren, and he slumped onto a sofa, where he was described as looking like a "rag doll".

"Mrs Elward-Jones intervened and threw herself on her husband to protect him," said Mr Warren.

Thomas left, saying: "You had better not phone the police, you piece of..."

There was a pool of blood on the floor and

Hugh Wallace said: "The victim's wife invited the defendant into the house and the defendant was accused by him of using violence to his own wife, which probably caused him to lose his temper."

"He completely lost his rag, but there is genuine remorse and sorrow. The provocation was extreme."

"The attack was an isolated incident and there is no reason to send this man into custody. The couple are working to get back together."

"To a large extent, the complainant brought the matter upon himself."

The judge pointed out that from testimonials, it was clear that Thomas was a man of positively good character.

Mr Warren said: "The victim's work and social life has been affected, as has his vision, and there was leaking from the cerebral sac."

Thomas' counsel

between 7.30pm and 9.30pm on the same evening. Money and card cards were taken from the properties.

Between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, January 14, on Graham Avenue, Pen-y-Fai, a house was entered and searched by intruders.

All the homes concerned were those of elderly residents.

Acting Detective Inspector Gareth Morgan said: "While the number of burglaries in south Wales and the Bridgend borough has significantly decreased, there unfortunately remains a

small minority of people willing to commit this despicable crime against vulnerable members of our community.

"I would like to reassure residents that investigations into the burglaries are ongoing and we are doing everything we can to catch those responsible."

"I urge members of the community to contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 with any information that will assist in identifying the culprits and recovering the stolen property."

The BRIDGEND & PORTCAWL Farmers Market

Traders are pleased to extend New Year wishes to all their regular and valued customers.



A note for your diary...

**Saturday 28th
January**

will start the 2012 markets

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Rushed-through Commons changes a danger to the fabric of democracy

MAY you live in interesting times is a Chinese curse – we most certainly live in interesting and highly dangerous times for the United Kingdom.

This week, the national media has been full of the proposed vote on independence for Scotland, breaking a union which has lasted since 1707.

Here in Wales, we have been looking at the proposals coming out of the boundary review for Wales reducing the number of MPs by 25 per cent.

Tomorrow in the Commons, we have a debate on the proposed changes to the electoral registration system. There is a risk that decisions are being proposed without the longer term consequences being fully

understood and examined. If you take all three of these together, I fear we are sleep walking, not just into 'interesting times' but into dangerous times.

I will start with the proposals to alter the boundaries here in Wales; reducing the number of MPs from 40 to 30. There will be those who think this is a good idea. Fewer politicians and equal-sized constituencies sounds like fairness.

The reality is the longer term costs will be huge.

There will be the costs of this boundary change and a similar exercise every five years to pay for; the breakup of community and historic links; additional office needs; travel and staff costs for MPs, especially those covering the extremely large mid Wales seats.

A vote in the Commons where Wales

has 30 rather than 40 MPs gives Wales a smaller voice.

This may seem less important since the advent of the Welsh Assembly but fails to address the vital importance of defence, foreign affairs, welfare benefits and Barnett – consequential funding decisions which have major impacts in Wales.

To cite a simple change, there are those who want to promote the introduction of regional pay scales. This would mean less pay in Wales and higher pay in the south of England.

I am also frustrated by the lack of recognition of community identity. I remember the anger and opposition when Cefn Cribwr, Aberkenfig and Coytrahen were removed at the last boundary change, when there was a long period of public consultation where concerns could be aired.

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.



In a desire to rush this change through, the time period for responses is only until April 4 and opportunities to organise opposition are reduced. The proposals and details of how to respond can be seen at <http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>.

The boundary changes need ratification by the Commons in 2013, so there is still a great deal to work for. The proposed Scotland referendum is not just a debate for north of the border. The proposal to break up the United Kingdom should be of concern to us all. As the world moves to greater trad-

ing blocks, it would be foolish to weaken our economic voice.

The UK has just been demoted to the sixth largest economy behind India – where would we be without Scotland and where would they be without the rest of us? This matters when attempting to attract inward investment and jobs.

There are so many questions which need to be answered. What would be the role of the pound? Would Scotland take on the huge liabilities of the Scottish banks or just a share of them?

A recent poll shows 53 per cent against independence, 33 per cent for and 14 per cent

undecided. The tone of the debate and the accuracy of information provided will be critical. The risk with referenda is not the question on the ballot paper, but the message voters want to articulate. It is important to avoid a Yes to independence vote actually being a NO to a particular government in Westminster.

What would be the implications for Wales in a majority English House of Commons of 550 MPs with only 30 Welsh voices and votes?

I support Carwyn's suggestion of a reformed House of Lords comprised of equally-balanced, elected representatives from the four nations.

This has great merit and should help balance anxieties about a powerful English and largely conservative voting block. It would also stop the packing of the Lords, which currently has over 800

members and is expected to rise to over 1,000.

Unelected, but costly, increasing the numbers in the Lords is shifting the balance of power away from the elected Commons.

The speed of the changes to the electoral system, the removal of the legal requirement to register and the monitoring of the impact of the changes by the Electoral Commission is my final concern.

The Electoral Commission has warned that the coalition proposals could result in up to 10 million people falling off the electoral register, with registration rates falling from over 90 per cent to around 65 per cent in some areas.

Recent research by the Electoral Commission shows that over 6 million eligible voters are not registered – 2.5 million more than previously thought. A higher level of failure to register is expected in Labour vot-

ing areas.

Accurate electoral registration data is important, not only for re-drawing constituency boundaries, calling up jurors and credit reference checks and thus critical for mortgage and loan applications, but also for allocation of public spending funds.

Put these three rushed-through changes together and you have what I consider to be a major risk to the democratic fabric of Great Britain. They change who we are, how we see ourselves and our civic responsibility to our communities and country.

The major problem is to alert constituents to the danger, to increase interest in what can seem a problem far removed from most people's lives; and to look to the future consequence of rushed-through alterations to the fabric and nature of democracy in the UK.

Bridgend Quiz League round-up

ON Monday, January 9, the Bridgend Quiz League began the second half of the season when the leaders had a bye, giving the rest a chance to close the gap.

Tyrsia Nomads went to Mackworth Arms, who beat them on the opening day of the season, and got their revenge by winning 46-34.

They were nine points up after the written section and the scores fluctuated somewhat throughout, but they finished almost the same distance ahead, thereby reducing Llangwydd Arms' lead at the top to two points. So, when they meet on Monday next, it should be quite a contest.

Oldcastle A kept up the pressure on the others with a big win at the Tyrsia Inn, where they beat the Royals by 49 points to 30.

There was a low-scoring match at the Six Bells, who just shaded it against Laleston Inn by 36 to 35.

The two teams who play at the Crown Inn both had good wins.

The A team completed the first division with a 40-21 victory at the Cabo Roche while the B team from Division Two won 48-40 against Peasham Gamekeepers.

Tondu Railway Club maintained their 100 per

cent record by their successful visit to Laleston Inn B, winning 58-35. Greenmeadow Llangeinor's 49-36 win versus Coychurch Wanderers gets them up to halfway in the division.

They had a four-point advantage after the written round, which stretched to six after the individual round and the run-in to the finish took them to their 13-point win.

Oldcastle B claimed the two league points for their match as Pyle RFC were unable to complete the fixture.

HERE ARE YOUR WEEKLY POSERS:

1. Who was the first American band to make Number One in the UK charts?

2. In a traditional English pack of playing cards, what does the King of Diamonds have behind his left shoulder?

3. Which legendary footballer was described by Sir Bobby Charlton as "The only player I ever felt I was inferior to"?

4. Which Gilbert and Sullivan operetta is set in the Tower of London?

A Rudge for Quiz League

Wales Air Ambulance paramedic's daughter shows early support!

WALES Air Ambulance's youngest supporter, Sophie Thomas, attended her first event when she was just nine weeks old!

She attended the presentation of a cheque from Llandow Caravan Park, a big supporter of Wales Air Ambulance, which raised £1,593.53 through raffles, bingo and donations last year.

She attended her second function eight days later for an informative talk with the Mothers' Union.

The event was held in St Michael's Church, Maesteg, and the talk was delivered by her proud dad, Wales Air Ambulance paramedic Rhodri Thomas.

Rhodri has been a volunteer with Wales Air Ambulance for more than two years, and last October became one of its paramedics.

1. Bill Haley and the Comets
2. An axe and the Guard
3. Dunham Edwards
4. The Queen and the Guard

ANSWERS:



Sophie, at her first official engagement!

STUDENTS from St Clare's senior school in Porthcawl are inviting younger pupils from surrounding primary schools to view *Dr When* – a musical written, directed and performed by the pupils themselves.

Dr When takes a group of not-so-talented performers back through time to pick up tips from famous musicians in a bid to improve their music and image and create a

highly-polished school band.

The performance has been created from scratch by pupils ranging from year 7 to the sixth Form, who are rehearsing hard to be ready to perform in the second week of March.

Local schools are invited to attend a free performance on March 12 or 14, during school hours. Contact St Clare's School on 01656 782509.

Samaritans boosted by Bath trip

MAY we, through your letters page, thank everyone who once again supported our annual Christmas trip to Bath.

We raised a fantastic £291.14 (that took into account the extra £50 we had to pay for parking), for the Bridgend branch of The Samaritans, which (as always) will be gratefully received, to help fund the telephone lines for Christmas.

We would especially like to thank our Bath regulars for their fantastic support and good company, the ever efficient Hazel and Victoria from Creigian Travel, and their lovely driver Sean.

Also our grateful thanks for the many raffle prizes donated by Vision For Living Ltd; not forgetting all the shops who put a poster up for us – we do appreciate it!

Julie Robinson, Llantwit Major (Friends of the Bridgend Samaritans)

Members praise the work of the KPC charity

MYNYDD CYNFFIG WI

ON Tuesday, January 10, Mynydd Cynffig WI had its first meeting of 2012, when president Margery Goode welcomed 27 members, including a new member, to the meeting.

Business matters were cleared, including plans for a theatre visit to celebrate the branch birthday in February.

Paula Lunnon from KPC was the guest

speaker and all members enjoyed her very informative talk about the work of KPC in the community.

Members commented on what a valuable asset to the community and its young people KPC has become.

In 2011, KPC was the local charity supported by the branch.

Maureen Crew gave the vote of thanks.

The next meeting will be held at Pyle church Hall on February 14, at 2.30pm.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	05.39	9.4	18.11	9.5
20 Fri	06.33	9.9	19.00	9.9
21 Sat	07.17	10.3	19.44	10.2
22 Sun	08.03	10.4	20.26	10.2
23 Mon	08.45	10.5	21.08	9.9
24 Tues	09.28	10.1	21.52	9.7
25 Wed	10.13	9.7	22.31	9.2
26 Thur	11.01	9.1	23.19	8.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



The funeral cortege enters Croychurch Crematorium.

OBITUARY: Richard Edward Jones, Llampha Tractor tribute as Dic's friends remember him

THE funeral took place last Thursday (January 12) of Richard Edward Jones (1941-2011) – and his friends paid a personal tribute by taking part in a funeral cortege made up of tractors.

Richard, known locally as 'Dic Pentrehwnt', was born in Pentrehwnt Farm Cottage, Llampha, in 1941.

I knew Dic in the days before he started school, when I was part of a team contracting on a thrashing machine around farms.

Dic was very proud of his roots and constantly talked about

his years growing up in Pentrehwnt. When his mother and father left the farm, they moved to Bryncethin, where they had many happy years together.

Dic spent most of his working life driving tractors and grass cutting for the county council, ending up driving one of the council's trucks.

Away from work, Dic was one of the top shots in the Tondu Rifle Club and in the 1960s and 1970s, he won many trophies in the Bridgend Air Rifle League.

Dic was well known for his involvement in all things vintage, and was always happy to share his extensive knowledge with anyone who needed advice.



ABOVE:
Dic, pictured at an Ogmor Tractor Run.

He was regularly seen at vintage Tractor Runs, driving his Ferguson T.20 and wearing his trademark bush hat, cheerily waving to everyone as he cruised along.

For many years, Dic was the driving force in the Bridgend Show, serving as chairman and organising the vintage section with his wife Trish as his back-up – or it could have been the other way round. Either

way, it was always great teamwork, with the support of many others!

He was regularly seen at such gatherings – usually with a hot mug of tea in one hand and a Welsh cake in the other – he always blamed Trish for shrinking his clothes!

It was definitely not due to his love of food!

My last chat with Dic was just two nights before he

passed away, when he called to my house for a chat and a drop of malt whisky and he was in his usual top form.

He was a good family man and he always appreciated the support he had from his dear wife, Trish, and his daughters, Calli and Laura.

It has been a pleasure and honour to have had Dic Pentrehwnt as a friend.

My thoughts, along with all those who knew him, are with his family at this sad time.

BASIL GEORGE

Said the judge: "This was a disgraceful incident.

"People who use

Misshapes provide some festive fun

NEWS FROM PENCOED WI

THE Christmas lunch at the Maerdy Hotel Pencoed was a great success and the Link Christmas celebration at St David's Church was also thoroughly enjoyed by 50 members.

Despite the most appalling weather, 35 ladies had a wonderful afternoon at our Christmas meeting. The entertainment was performed by a new group called the Misshapes (45 minutes of laughter).

This was followed by a raffle, secret Santa and a traditional tea served by the committee. Our new pro-

gramme began on January 10 with Peter Townsend giving informative talk about Portcawl lifeboats. President Val thanked him and presented him with a cheque for £350, which was raised at the autumn fayre.

The next speaker on February 14 is Mrs J Benson Davison, whose talk is entitled 'Extend'.

New members and guests are always welcome. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at Pencoed Welfare Hall (1.45pm to 4.15pm).

For further details, telephone Val on 01656862181 or Pat on 016560289.

Childbirth Trust's nearly new sale

The National Childbirth Trust (NCT) will hold a nearly new sale on Saturday, March 3 at 11am-12:30pm in Cwbridg Leisure Centre, the Broadshoar, Cowbridge (doors open at 10.45am for NCT members with membership card).

Entrance is £1/family: baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg. prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register by February 29 (and for details of what can/can't be sold) or email nctnearlynearlynewsales@live.co.uk.

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Cakes, tea and coffee on sale, plus many bargains.

Non-members welcome to buy and sell. A big thank you to all who buy, sell and help at our sales. Volunteers are

First, Adriatic, next, Atlantic!

NEWS FROM PORTCAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

PORTHCAWL

Townspeople's Guild chairman, Dee Richardson, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2012 and we were all ready to get back into routine at the start of a new year.

We have quite a busy year ahead of us with a variety of activities – the first being a coffee morning at the Atlantic on January 24, where there will be a bring and buy stall and the usual card stall.

Donations to support the work are welcome. Registered charity No. 801395.

Find us on Facebook: search 'NCT Vale & Valleys'.

JULIE PRICE

their December meeting.

With the loss of one of our members, Audrey Eynon, who was also our pianist, and a member of the music group at Trinity, we have decided to purchase a copy of the new hymn book for the use of the organist at Trinity in her memory.

Our speaker was Mr David Anderson, so we knew that we were in for a wonderful afternoon of travel – and we were not disappointed as we were taken around the Adriatic, which was very interesting.

The next meeting will be on February 8 at 2pm, in All Saints Church Hall. Our speaker will be Mr Mike Boyles, so we are in for a wonderful afternoon of music!

FREDA RODGER

violence in this way and cause fear face immediate custody."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on September 26 last year, the defendants went to the home of Alan Smith in Pencoed, believing that a member of the family owed one of them £50.

McGregor was carrying the bat. The family heard a bang, and were aware of McGregor smashing the back window of a car.

Hills then began kicking down the front wall. At this point, the family chased Hills into nearby Deri Avenue, and McGregor ran into a park.

Hills, said Mr Greenwood, shouted: "I've got a knife, and I'm going to slice you."

He did not have such a weapon, said Mr Greenwood.

However, it caused Mr Smith to "stop dead in his tracks".

Later, fearing for his safety, Mr Smith struck McGregor.

But McGregor picked up stones and threw them at the family, narrowly missing Mrs Smith.

When arrested, McGregor told the police he had gone to the house to collect money and took the bat because he "expected trouble".

Said Mr Greenwood: "He said he was off his face, didn't know what he was doing and conceded that their behaviour would have made them look like a bunch of lunatics."

Hills denied threatening anyone.

Owen Williams, representing both men, said they had already served the equivalent of an eight-month sentence on remand, and acknowledged that anti-social behaviour was not to be tolerated and had to be punished.

Who wants to build what and where?



Transformer in Porthcawl! See pages 6 & 7 for full story!

Mr A Davies – 10 Ton Tylluan, Broadlands – Single storey extension to rear.

Mr Abuzer Baykara – Maesteg Charcoal Grill, 25 Commercial Street, Maesteg – Extend opening hours to 2am Fridays and Saturdays.

Mr Kerry Beer – 12 Garfield Avenue, Litchard – Garden shed to front.

Mrs Emma-Jayne Griffiths – 26 Garn Road, Maesteg – Conservatory to front.

Elitescapes – Tyn y Coed, Nicholls Road, Croyrahen – Fell ash tree.

BCBC Regeneration Projects – The Market, Talbot Street, Maesteg – New entrance to indoor market, int. lobby with auto doors, bus office area and enclosed seating area.

Mr David Morris – 16

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

PACT meeting

THIS is an opportunity for residents in Maesteg to discuss any problems they have with police and council officials, on Monday, January 23 at 6.30pm in Cwm Canol (opposite ASDA supermarket).

Last respects
I WOULD inform readers of this column who knew John Jenkins, musical director of the Bridgend male choir, and wish to pay their respects, that his funeral service

takes place tomorrow (January 20) at 12pm in Margam Crematorium.

Top results!

TYNRHEOL primary school assessment results were the best that pupils had ever achieved at Key Stage 1 with 100 per cent at Level 2 or above in all core subjects.

This is the required level for seven-year-olds in Wales. The presentation of school work by pupils has increased considerably during the last year.

The school also gained the prestigious ICT Becta quality mark.

Older pupils at the school have benefited

from participating in inter-school games such as basketball, football, netball and rugby.

Three pupils, Lauren Chard, Ieuan Jeremy and Daniel Parker, were chosen to play basketball in the Bridgend North League in the Bridgend classic basketball tournament. Daniel Parker was chosen to play for the Bridgend County basketball squad in London and Stoke on Trent.

Evan Davies and Josh Sheppard played in the Bridgend and District football team, and Kai Lewis has been selected for the Cardiff City football academy.

In a recent Bridgend schools cross-country event, Ioan Davies took first place in his section, and many other pupils had represented the school in cross-country races last term.

The PTFA is holding a half price book fair in the school hall from January 23–January 27, Monday–Thursday, 2.30pm–3.30pm and Friday 8.50am–9.20am.

The school has extra curricular clubs this term, including guitar club, each Monday at 12.30pm–1pm with Mr Griffiths; drama club, Tuesday, 3.15pm–4pm with Mrs Graham; ball skills club, Wednesday, 3.15pm–4pm with Mr Goldsworthy; and a music club Thursday, 3.15pm–4pm with Miss Jones.

Young singers

MAESTEG Town Hall's young singers competition has competitors coming from all areas throughout Wales, organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir and sponsored by

international women's day at Porthcawl in March. The new year lunch is to take place on January 27 at the Southerndown golf club.

The president also informed members that they would be adorning a float in a community carnival in June.

Subs were paid, a new programme outlined and a plate supper with mulled wine was provided by members, who attempted the quiz on the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee.

This was a congenial, social meeting on a cold winter night. Next meeting is on February 9 in St Brides Major church hall (7.15pm). Phillip Davies will talk on 'Weird Wills'. **BM**

It was an easy-going, informal meeting with no official speaker. The president introduced new faces, the committee introduced themselves and everyone was wished a happy new year.

A brief county letter was read, a few members will be going to an

Mulled wine and a quiz on a chilly night!

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

A REVITALISED Southerndown WI branch got off to a good start at the January meeting; to her credit, president Meryl James had recruited several prospective members who appeared to enjoy themselves – and won a quiz.

It was an easy-going, informal meeting with no official speaker. The president introduced new faces, the committee introduced themselves and everyone was wished a happy new year.

A brief county letter was read, a few members will be going to an

international women's day at Porthcawl in March. The new year lunch is to take place on January 27 at the Southerndown golf club.

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Question time for the Welsh coaches at Bridgend Athletic



ABOVE: Neil Jenkins, Scrum 5's Rick O'Shea, club president Wayne Griffiths and Rob Howley. Wayne Griffiths presented club ties to the visitors.

THE official reopening of Bridgend Athletic RFC's refurbished upstairs function room took place in the presence of Welsh coaches Rob Howley and Neil Jenkins, who conducted a frank Q&A session.

The facility is now open to the public for weddings and birthday parties. Call 01656 652263 for details.

id Wayne Griffiths of Nathaniel Cars gave the vote of thanks and presented guests with club ties.

Patron Gareth Davies was the MC and also conducted a successful auction.

The facility is now open to the public for weddings and birthday parties. Call 01656 652263 for details.



Neil Jenkins and Rob Howley.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Dunraven Windows Ltd. on Saturday, January 28 at 6.30pm.

The compere for the evening is BBC presenter Beverly Humphreys.

The adjudicators are:

Wyn Davies, a

Welshman, who has

been musical director

for NBR New Zealand

Opera since 2005;

Suzanne Murphy from

Limerick, an Honorary

Fellow of the University

of Cardiff and the Royal

Welsh College of Music

and Drama, where she

has taught since 2001;

tenor Dennis O'Neill

and baritone Eric

Roberts, who has only

had one audition for a

job in 30 years – and

that was to join the choru

s of the Welsh

National Opera!

Tickets for the com

petition cost £5 and can

be obtained from

Maesteg town hall box

office.

Carers get together

BRIDGEND Carers' Centre at 87 Park

Street, Bridgend, (tele-

phone 01656 658479),

has a series of events

over the next few days

for carers.

On Monday, January

23/30 between

10am–1pm, and January

25, 1pm–4pm, drop-in

facilities are being pro-

vided for a sociable

meeting.

On January 23/30,

there will be the book

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meeting.

On January 23/30,

there will be the book

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Working Men's Club hosts a special 40th birthday bash for Clare - AND EVERYONE JOINED IN!

LLANHARRY Working Men's Club was the venue for a special local celebration on January 7, when Clare McClean from Pontyclun, celebrated her 40th birthday.

As you can see from Andy Wicks' images, everyone joined in the fun and the youngsters in particular enjoyed their moment in the spotlight, with the encouragement of the DJ.

PHOTOGRAPHS
by ANDY WICKS



'Help to make a difference' is Rotary's plea

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl is delighted to have been chosen to pilot a 'Satellite Club'.

We know that some people can't commit to regularly helping others even though they would love to - perhaps due to work or family circumstances for all who join.

If you, your partner or friends would like to find out more about this exciting new initiative being taken by Rotary International, we have arranged an interest meeting at the Salthouse on the Square in Porthcawl at 7.30pm on Tuesday, February 7.

This will be an ideal opportunity to come and chat to us and find out more about who we are, what we do and how you can make a difference to your local community.

Just drop in - we'd love to see you! If you would like more information, please get in touch with Ken Roberts on 01656 721510.

IVOR WILLIAMS

It could meet on a day and time which suits each club member, have a different venue, multiple venues or even no venue - members meeting in their own homes.

It could set its own local agenda for undertaking one-off projects or

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From carols to a fun quiz

MERTHYR MAWR WI

PRESIDENT
Margaret Batten opened the January meeting by wishing all the members a Happy New Year; she welcomed two visitors who had joined us for the meeting and hoped that they would come again.

The Christmas dinner had been a great success. We had enjoyed a superb meal provided again by Jane Morgan, Diana Chinn entertained us with some amusing Christmas readings and the evening had ended with everyone joining in the carol singing, led by Olga Woolfenden and Rosemary Rowe.

Several members attended the link carol service at Penllyn Church last month. We

are the host WI for our link this year and we will be holding a link meeting on March 22 at Colwinston Village Hall.

We were pleased many members braved the heavy rain and strong winds to attend the January meeting.

After the business of the evening had been concluded, we held a social evening.

A bring and buy stall was run to raise money for charity.

Gwerfil Gardiner organised a fun quiz, which taxed our brains, and we enjoyed catching up with friends - helped along with a few refreshments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1 at Corntown Community Hall, when the talk will be 'Life in Japan'. FC

Members hear of a pilgrimage to Middle East

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI

THE monthly members' meeting was held on January 3 and president, Novello Peters, wished everyone a happy New Year, distributed new programmes for the year, and introduced speaker, Marion Layton-Matthews.

Marion delivered an extremely interesting, and often humorous talk on her pilgrimage to Jordan and Egypt.

With the help of a

map, she explained the route they had taken and

described the sights and scenes they had experienced and the people they had met, giving us a modern day picture of the settings of well-known biblical stories.

Some places were perhaps not as we'd envisaged them to be!

She showed various examples of local craft-work she had brought back as souvenirs, and we were able to see pictures and guide books from some of the places she had visited. Marion was thanked by Novello.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by secretary, Jane Exell. All felt that the group carol service held on December 14 was a very successful event, and those providing the refreshments were thanked for their efforts.

Information was given regarding various forthcoming local and federation events and competitions, and arrangements were made for the festive meal on January 17 at the Red Fox in Penllyn.

The WI Resolutions options were discussed and voting took place. The winners of the raffle and the competition were announced.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and the speaker will be Ros Jones, talking about 'Appliquéd'.

New members welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall. For further information contact Novello 01656 674191 or Marjorie 01656 647115.

MN

FLORAL PHOTOS

THE Pencoed Flower Arranging Society meets in the Pencoed College lecture room on February 6 at 7pm.

A photography evening has been arranged with an around the world theme by Mr Mike Baker, of Aberthin.

Guests are welcome and have free entry on their first visit to the club. Contact 01656 657796 for details.

Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

RESULTS for
Bridgend Bridge Club for
Wednesday,
January 11, were as follows:

First, Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams; Second, David Bowen and David Crompton; Third, Steve Burgoyne and Linda Pinnock.

Friday, January 13: First, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams; Second, Diane Jones and Pat Coghill; Third, Marjorie Morris and Linda

Pinnock. In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm in Nolton Church Hall, there will be lessons for beginners on Fridays from February 3 at 7.30pm; and improvers on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

For more information, or to register interest, contact John Beard, 01446 771445; Steve Burgoyne, 01656 661968 or David Newman, 01656 649138.

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COMEDY @ THE DUKE
Thursday 26th January

CHRIS CORCORAN

"a very funny man" - The Mirror
Mr BBC Radio Wales/support tours Rob Brydon/Rod Gilbert/Greg Davies

CLINT EDWARDS

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JORDAN BROOKS

Unerringly unstable presence giving edge to his smartly crafted one-liners.

ROB HUGHES

writer of sublime material...mixes truth with fiction in a comedy cocktail that'll get your head in a spin.

Doors 7pm - Show 8.30pm - 11.30pm
Tickets advance £15 advance
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CHARITY NIGHT FOR THE SANDVILLE SEES LOCALS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT

THIS year's Twelfth Night Fancy Dress Carnival at the Hi-Tide was a "great success", say organisers.

The reception rooms were filled with revellers and the fancy dress turnout was of a high standard.

Arthur and Marilyn Beale, together with Dave and Patricia Jones who lead a team of supporters too many to name, led the event in the Hi-Tide thanks to the generosity of Geoff and Francesca Dower.

The guests and celebrities for the panel of judges were: Boyd Clack and Kirsten Jones, Alyson and Eifion Evans, Cathy and Neil Poacher and sister Gwyneth Poacher, MBE.

The compères were Lennie Dee and Robbie Owen.

All proceeds from the evening went to the Sandville Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig. Barclays Bank was the main supporter, matching £750 against the raffle.

Report and photos by KEITH E MORGAN.



ABOVE: The toy soldiers were the winners in the groups category.



ABOVE: The judges (left to right): Neil and Cathy Poacher; Sister Gwyneth Poacher; Alyson and Eifion Evans; Kirsten Jones and actor and comedian Boyd Clark



Pictures
by
KEITH E
MORGAN

PORTHCAWL'S TWELFTH NIGHT FANCY DRESS NIGHT IS A 'GREAT SUCCESS'



**Pictures by
KEITH E
MORGAN.**



Dianna Rees (raffle winner) with Gwyneth Poacher and Dave Jones.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

MYNYDD Cynffig Junior School is adopting a new policy for parents' meetings this year – after the reports in the summer term, they feel that it is too late to help pupils who are falling behind.

However, if parents are aware of their child's difficulties early enough, they can support the school and help pupils achieve their best by the end of the year.

The school will be holding parents' meetings on March 27-28 to discuss their child's progress.

Inter-school matches – The school recently played netball and rugby against West Park Primary School, Porthcawl.

In rugby, the 'A' team

won by 28 points to six, with Luke Dingle scoring two tries and Connor Farnham and Connor Morgan scoring one each.

Luke Dingle also had a fine match with the boot, converting all five tries.

The 'B' team also played well, winning by 25 points to 15, with three tries from Bradley Jenkins and two from Liam Evans.

The school netball teams had mixed fortunes in the three matches, with the 'A' team winning 6-4, the 'B' team drawing 3-3 and the 'C' team losing 7-0.

Presentation DURING the recent quiz night in the Royal Oak pub, Kenfig Hill, Karen Evans, representing Pisgah Chapel, was

presented with a cheque for £500 by landlady Tina Richards, part of the proceeds from the four-pint whisky bottle recently opened.

Karen was delighted and thanked Tina and all those who take part in the quiz, saying that this would be a great help towards the repairs to the organ in the chapel.

Gig night

KPC Youth and Porthcawl CS Leo Club are holding a Gig Night at Pyle RFC this Saturday, January 21, from 7pm. The entertainment will feature 'Loss Conscious' and 'Approaching Danger' plus supporting acts.

Tickets, which can be obtained on the door,



COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE** by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

are £2 or £3; however, you must be 13 and over to gain admission. Proceeds from this event will go towards the development of both clubs.

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters Wales in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road on Wednesday January 25, include information writing with Val – expressive and fun from 1:30pm to 4:30pm and the reading group from 3pm to 4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm, when everyone is welcome at a relaxed afternoon in a friendly environment.

SHOUT

IF YOU have any issues about your village which you'd

like to discuss and see some action taken, why not attend the next meeting of 'SHOUT' which is being held in the Barnyard, Pyle on Tuesday January 31 from 2pm to 3pm.

Parish news

MOVETIME – The next movetime, in which a classic film will be shown, will be held in the church hall next Thursday, January 26 at 2pm.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed on Tuesday last week, by all who went on a trip to see the musical *Oliver*, an excellent show with great singing.

Thanks to Alan Brookes, who organised everything so well; 54 very happy people came home after a brilliant evening out.

For details of services, events and activities in the parish, telephone the Rev Dr Duncan



Karen Evans, from the Pisgah Ladies Fellowship, receiving a cheque for £500 from Tina Richards (right), the landlady of the Royal Oak Pub, Kenfig Hill.

Walker, on 01656 740500/07766 710373 or Gareth Gardner on 07779 239302.

PACT

AT the PACT meeting in the Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr, last Thursday, the new issues discussed were – vehicles being driven the wrong way along one way streets in the vicinity of Park Street and Pisgah Street in Kenfig Hill.

An increase in the number of dogs being allowed to roam in the street and fouling on gardens and open greens where children play in the areas of Llwyn Helig, Channel Heights and High Street, Kenfig Hill.

Indiscriminate park-

ing, in John Street, Cefn Cribwr, causing an obstruction which recently prevented an ambulance getting to a patient.

An increase in vandalism in Tytallwyn Avenue, Kenfig Hill, with cars being spat on and having their wing mirrors knocked off.

Concerns for public safety at the open cast mine – People are accessing the site which is not safe.

Also discussed was the on-going problem with parents causing obstructions with their vehicles when dropping off and picking up school children.

Underage drinking at a location near Pyle Swimming Pool and speeding vehicles and

the increase in traffic since Ffordd Y Chwrel has been occupied.

Bethel Chapel

BETHEL Community Church would like to thank the people of Kenfig Hill and the residents of Llys Cynffig for their generosity in supporting church members as they sang carols around the streets and in Llys Cynffig in the days leading up to Christmas.

The money raised, including donations, was an excellent £195 and this will be used exclusively to provide an education for a 15-year-old orphan boy in Rwanda.

'Winter warmer' toasted the benefits of local woodland



ABOVE: Members of the Bridgend FEI enjoy the outdoors around a woodland camp fire.

THE Bridgend Forest Education Initiative (FEI) group recently had just the answer to post-festive blues – a 'winter warmer' get-together around a crackling log fire in the woods.

The group is made up of local teachers and business people in the Bridgend area with a keen interest in the timber industry and woodland education.

With the guidance and support of Forestry Commission Wales, the group meets regularly to increase understanding of the environmental, social, and economic potential of woodlands, particularly among young people.

Recently the group, which wants to recruit new members, organised hot chocolate, toasted marshmallows and cakes around a log fire in Rockwood Woodlands for Learning Centre, Bridgend.

Group secretary and Forestry Commission Wales education officer Geminie Drinkwater said: "This was an opportunity to meet like-minded people who have a keen interest in the timber industry and outdoor woodland education, with the possibility of creating new business links."

"We hope the winter warmer session will encourage new members to the Bridgend FEI cluster group and bring in yet more skills to the group which members can then pass on to the children and young people they work with."

The Bridgend group is one of 23 FEI cluster groups in Wales, made up of a network of people interested in woodland-based learning, including teachers, Forest School practitioners, woodland owners and timber industry

representatives.

Groups represented in the Bridgend cluster include Forestry Commission Wales, local schools, Keep Wales Tidy, Bridgend County Council, Valley and Vale Community Arts, Bridgend Foundation Phase Team, BTCV and Groundwork.

Each cluster group develops local programmes for children and young people in its area, helped by members of the Forestry Commission Wales Woodlands for Learning (WFL) team.

As well as engendering an appreciation of the environmental and economic potential of woodlands, the groups also promote the benefits of trees for our emotional and physical well-being.

Geminie said: "Basically, the winter warmer event was an FEI meeting with a twist, with a view to strengthening relationships in the group and attracting new members."

"Ideally, I'm hoping to attract people from the timber industry, independent education providers and so on, to try to diversify the make-up of the group which is made up primarily of teachers."

She said the event was an opportunity to reflect on the group's achievements in 2011 and focus on the challenges for 2012.

"Last year, the group enjoyed two workshops, one on green woodwork and one on outdoor drama, courtesy of funding provided by FEI Wales, and visited different outdoor learning locations across Bridgend, sharing examples of best practice."

For more information, contact Geminie Drinkwater on 0300 068 0253; mobile 07748 336629; email geminie.drinkwater@forestry.gov.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition

AN exhibition by two 'war and conflict artists' in Barry will be the centre-piece of the Vale's commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The exhibition, called 'Blue Line', offers the chance to see the dramatic and moving work of Polish artist Maciej Hoffman, whose paintings will be shown alongside the work of Welsh artist, Nicola Tucker, which sensitively examines issues around the theme of Holocaust.

Describing the exhibition, Vale Council arts development officer, Tracey Harding, said: "We are commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day, which is held annually on January 27 for the fifth time. Hoffman and Tucker's work complement each other. Tucker's striking and poignant messages are told subtly through her sculptural installations, whereas Hoffman's large-scale canvases immediately impact on the viewer. It is definitely an exhibition to visit."

Nicola Tucker lives in Cardiff and, in addition to her work

Pupils' tough questions for the First Minister



ABOVE: Carwyn Jones AM fields questions from the school council.

FIRST MINISTER

Carwyn Jones AM has visited Ysgol Bryn Castell to speak to children at a special assembly, about his role and the importance of the Assembly for the people of Wales.

He was grilled by the school council on a range of topics, from his visits to Downing Street, to what he wanted to be when he was growing up.

Mr Jones reported: "It was a pleasure to visit Ysgol Bryn Castell and talk to pupils there about a number of issues that are important to all of us.

"It is always encouraging to see young people engaging with political issues with such

enthusiasm."

Headteacher Stephen O'Callaghan said: "It is always good to see pupils give voice to their concerns and express them appropriately."

"This visit is helping to develop our young people into 'responsible' citizens, who understand their rights and

responsibilities and can play an active part in the community."

Andrew Stephens, a pupil on the school council, commented: "I thought his visit was wonderful; he is a really nice guy and we are looking forward to visiting him at the National Assembly for Wales."

Nottage PTA raises £1,600

NOTTAGE Primary School PTA, Porthcawl, held a festive fun event for the family which raised £1,600 – the raffle accounting for more than £750 – with prizes donated by local businesses.

Barclays Bank in Porthcawl will again add funds to the raffle, which will take the amount raised to well over £1,300. All money raised benefits children in the school.

SANDVILLE STAFF ENTERTAIN THEIR VOLUNTEERS TO LUNCH!



ABOVE: The Sandville team in their 'best-bib-and-tucker' – preparing to serve lunch to the volunteers are Gary Banks, Irene Keane, Peggy Parish and Sister Gwyneth Poacher.



ABOVE: Gwyneth and her team with the army of Sandville volunteers. This picture by IRIS SMITH



Sister Gwyneth Poacher introduces pianist Louis Voyzey of Swansea.

by KEITH E MORGAN

IT has become a tradition that every year, Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE and staff at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Tôn Kenfig, entertain the army of volunteers who support the foundation, to a lunch at the centre.

For this special lunch, the volunteers are treated like royalty. They are welcomed with a glass of wine and waited on by Gwyneth and her team who do all the serving and the washing up afterwards!

The caterers were the Prince of Wales public house at Kenfig, with mine hosts Gareth and Julie Maund providing and donating all the cuisine.

Entertainment during the lunch was provided free of charge by pianist Louis Voyzey from Swansea.

Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next presentation is the keenly-awaited *Jane Eyre* (Cert PG) which will be shown on January 26 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

This film by Cary Fukunaga is true to Charlotte Bronte's book and its setting in wild Yorkshire.

It stars Mia

Wasikowska as Jane and Michael Fassbender as Rochester with Judi Dench as Mrs Fairfax. Jane seems to have found happiness at Thornfield at last but could Mr Rochester's terrible secret be about to destroy it forever?

Tickets £3 (in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door (subject to availability).

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tocyn wythnos ar gyfer
ywmlwyr i'r Fro:**

Meddai'r Prif

Wethredwr, Elfed
Roberts, "Fel pob gwyl
a digwyddiad mawr
arall, rydym yn dibyn-
nol iawn ar gefnogaeth
ein hynhwyfwr, a rydan
ni'n awyddus i'w
gweud yn fyw hawdd,
i'n cynnillaf selog ein
cefnogi drwy gres cyn-
gigion arbennig i'w
hannog i dreflio mwy o
amer a Faes yr
Eisteddfod.

"Dyw tocyn wyth-
nos yr Eisteddfod ddym
yn rywheith ywod y
llynedd a'ers hymn,
roedd yn amwg nad
oedd pawb yn
ymwybodol o'r arbedion
gwrioneddol mae'r
tocyn yr ei gynnig i'r
rheini sydd am dreflio
nifer o ddyddiau yn
crwydro'r Maes.

"Ynhen 200 o ddy-
ddiau rydym yn mawr
obethio y bydd pob yn
tyrru i Landw o bob cwr
o Gymru i fyw hau'r
Eisteddfod. Bydd can-
neodd o weithgareddau
o bob math ym aros
amdan ymhr y ar y
Maes, a rydym eisiau
sychau bod cynyfer o
bobl a phosibl i'r
cymaint o ddyddiau ag
gallan nhw ar y Maes,
yn mwynhau'r gorau
gan gan Gymru i'w
chynnig.

"Mae'r tocyn wyth-
nos yn cynnig arbediad
go iawn i unrhyw un
sy'n ymwyd 'r
Eisteddfod am yr wyth-
nos. Mae oedolyn yn
arbed 34% ar bris
tocynnau unigol ar gyfer
yr wythnos gysfan - arbe-
diad o £46 - sydd yn
sicr o wneud gwahani-
aeth wrth ystyried fod
i'r Maes bob dydd.

"Dim ond un o'r
cynigion sydd ar gael
yw'r tocyn wythnos, a
byddwn yn cyhoeddi
manylion cynnig arbennig
arall ddechrau
Chweffor; pan y byddwn
yn datlith mai chwe mis
yn unig fydd i fynd cyn
dechrau Eisteddfod
Genedlaethol Bro
Morgannwg.

"Gobeithio y bydd
pobl o bob cwr o Gymru
a thu hwnt yn dod atom
i'r Fro. I'r rheini
onhanoch sydd yn
garafanwyr; mae ffur-
fenni cais y mae
carafanwyr swyddogol
ar gael arlein an ym
broses a gael eu hanfon
allan at bawb ar ein bas-
data. Mae Bro
Morgannwg yn un o

ardaloedd hyfrytaf
Cymru, ac fe fydd croeso
cymes yn eich disgwyl
yn Llandow a gweddiad y
sir ddechrau Awst."

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Morgannwg o 4-11 Awst

Galwn ar bawb sydd
a'u byrd ar fod yn ddi-
rectif, ac unrhywun sy'n
mwynhau bywd blasus a
hwyl! Mae Hywela
Edwards, gwraig weddy
gyda chymllion sylwedd-
ol wedi cael et i llofrud-
dio yn yr Eisteddfod yn
Llanilltud (llofruddiaeth
dychymygoel mewn
Eisteddfod dychymy-
goel), a chynllun noson
arbennig i geisio dod o
hyd i'r llofrudd.

Ymhithl y rhai dan
amheueth mae'r

Archdderwydd, ei wraig
aelod blaenllo wawr

Merched y Wawr Annie

Thomas, y gwyfreithwraig

leol Heulwen Dda

(perthynas i Hywel Dda
o bell). Mary Hopkins

sydd wedi bod yn cael

peith trafferthion ari-
anol yn ddiweddwr a'r

Parchedig Alfred

Roberts sydd o hyd yn

ceisio codi arian i drw-
sio i'r Eglwys ac sy'n

mwynhau gwneud teisen-
nau bach! Mae gan bob

un ohonynt nhw reswm

dros llofruddio Hywela

ond mae'r rhaid i chi

wnedud archwiliad

i ddatgelwr'roseddwr!

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chwarau rhannau'r

cymderau dan arwein-
ad Natalie Richards.

Mae nifer cyfngedig o

docynnau fellyr archeb-
wch cyn gynted ag sy'n

bosibl drwy gysylltu â

Ros Lewis - 01446

793530 neu Gwennol

Haf -

gwennol@eisteddfod.org.uk / 0845 4090 300.

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DETAILS OF

**WEEK-LONG
TICKETS**

WITH only 200 days to go before the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod begins at the old airfield, Llandow, the Eisteddfod has announced details of its week-long ticket for visitors to this year's festival in the Vale.

Eisteddfod Chief Executive, Elfed Roberts, says, "Like every other festival and large-scale event, we are very dependent on the support of our visitors, and we want to make it easier for our regular visitors to support us by offering special deals to encourage people to spend more time on the Maes.

"The week-long ticket isn't a new initiative, but after speaking to a large number of Eisteddfodwyd last year in Wrexham and since then, it became obvious that people weren't aware of the substantial savings for those wishing to visit the Maes most days.

"In 200 days time, we very much hope that people will flock to Llandow from all corners of Wales and beyond to enjoy the Eisteddfod. There'll be hundreds of activities taking place all over the Maes, and we want to make sure that as many people as possible spend as much time as they can on the Maes, enjoying the best Wales has to offer.

"The week-long ticket offers a real saving for anyone attending the Eisteddfod throughout the week. An adult will save 34% on the price of eight daily tickets - a real saving of £46 - which will make a real difference for people considering whether to come to the Maes every day.

"This is only one of the offers available this year, and we'll be announcing details of a brand new offer at the beginning of February when we celebrate six months to go before the start of the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

"I hope that people will join us in the Vale, and for the caravanners amongst you, the registration forms for the official caravan site are available online and are in the process of being sent out to everyone on our database. The Vale of Glamorgan is one of

the most beautiful parts of Wales, and there'll be a warm welcome awaiting you in Llandow and the rest of the county at the beginning of August."

Week-long Eisteddfod tickets go on sale online - www.eisteddfod.org.uk - on Saturday 4 February. The ticket offers a saving of 34% for an adult, costing £90 rather than £136 for eight individual daily tickets. Price details available online on the 2012 Eisteddfod website.

**The Vale of
Glamorgan National
Eisteddfod is held from
4-11 August this year.**

MURDER AT THE EISTEDDFOD!

Calling all budding
detectives, and anyone
who enjoys delicious
food and fun! Hywela
Edwards, a widow with
substantial savings has
been murdered at the
Eisteddfod in Llanllwyt
(an imaginary murder
in an imaginary
Eisteddfod!) and we're
holding an evening to
help find the culprit!

The suspects include
the Archdderwydd
(Archdruid), who is the
head of 'Gorsedd y
Beirdd' (Association of
Bards), and his wife
Annie Thomas, a prominent
local member of
Merched y Wawr.

Also under suspicion
are the local solicitor
Heulwen Dda (a distant
relative of Hywel Dda, a
Welsh king who established
the Law of Hywel
in the 9th century), Mary
Hopkins who has been
having some recent
financial difficulties and
the Reverend Alfred
Roberts, who is constantly
trying to fundraise to repair
the church roof and enjoys
baking fairy cakes!

They all have their
own motive for murdering
Hywela, but you must
investigate to uncover the
culprit!

This murder mystery
evening will be held to
raise funds for the
National Eisteddfod (in
August in Llandow) at
Illdud's 216, Llanllwyt
Major on February 9th
(6.30pm for 7pm start).
Tickets are £25 each and
includes a delicious 3
course meal.

Pupils from Llanllwyt
Major School will be
playing the part of the
suspects under the guidance
of Natalie Richards.

Tickets are limited; to
book, please contact Ros
Lewis - 01446 793530,
or Gwennol Haf - gwennol@eisteddfod.org.uk / 0845 4090 300.

War Horse shows fine pedigree...but is ever so slightly too saccharine!

FOR all his behind
the scenes work,
producing the likes
of TV series *Terra
Nova* and *Falling
Skies*, the Steven
Spielberg we know
and love is the man
behind the camera.

Having only just
come off the release of
his take on *Tintin* last
October, the 'Berg is on
slightly more award-
friendly ground with his
adaptation of *War
Horse*.

The film tells the
story of Joey, a horse
belonging to Albert
(Jeremy Irvine) who is
sold to the cavalry and
shipped to France during
World War I. As Joey
fights his way through
the war, Albert never
gives up on his trusty
steed and sets out to find
him and get him back.

Spielberg has always
seemed to have something
of an infatuation with war,
either directly (1941, *Saving Private
Ryan*) or indirectly
(*Schindler's List*, the
Indiana Jones films). So
given a story that is
arguably purely
Spielberg of a young
man desperate to be
reconnected to his
beloved horse, set
against a backdrop of
World War I, the director
is on surer footing than
he was with his last
directorial outing.

So it's hardly surprising
that one of the masters
of cinema has conjured
up such an endearing
and tender story packed
full of the elements
that you would expect
from his work; but similarly
to *War Horse*, the
script does stumble a
little at directorial
outing.

The dialogue at times
feels a little too forced
and stagey, while several
moments see good intentions
undone by emotional
overkill (something
Spielberg, too, is guilty of
on more than one occasion).

That being said, there

drown itself in its own
syrupy emotion, resulting
in a film that is grandiose
and epic, yet occasionally
veers a touch too close to too
saccharine for its own good.

From the opening
shots of the sprawling
English countryside, you
know that this isn't a
film that will scrimp on
visuals, and that is the
case. Whether it is the
romance of picturesque
England, or the horrors
of the trenches and the
battlefields of war,
Spielberg creates a gorgeous
visual feast to enjoy that is
packed full of scenes which bear
the influence of the likes of
David Lean.

There is little faulting
the direction, nobody is
better at shifting the
emotional gears than
Spielberg, with the
romance of the story
punctuated by the brutal-
ity of war.

While the success of
the stage play has no
doubt led to the film
being made, the source
novel from Michael
Morpurgo is where the
story comes from.

Scriptwriters Lee Hall
and Richard Curtis do a
sterling job of taking the
epic nature of the tale
and adding pace to it.
But as good a job as
they do with this, the
script does stumble a
little.

The dialogue at times
feels a little too forced
and stagey, while several
moments see good intentions
undone by emotional
overkill (something
Spielberg, too, is guilty of
on more than one occasion).

That being said, there

SCREEN TALK


by
**GARETH
JAMIESON**
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter -
@GEMScreenTalk

are small moments of
beauty that are wonderfully
realised by the
screenwriters.

The meeting of two opposing
soldiers on no man's land
with the sole aim of
helping Joey and the tale
of a grandfather and his
grand-daughter, are just
two examples of how,

with a little less sugar
and a bit more grit, the
film could have eschewed its
overly emotional tone.

The fragmented narrative
also doesn't really lend
itself to any jaw-dropping
performances, though the
central pairing of Jeremy
Irvine as Albert and (yes,
I really am saying this) the
horse who portrays Joey,
are exceptional. Irvine,
a relative newcomer,
anchors the film with a
wide-eyed enthusiasm

and lively performance.
His journey is as
important as the one
Joey undergoes, while the
horses exhibit absolutely superb
behaviour.

While the remainder
of the cast are all relatively
big names, and as you
would expect offer
strong turns, the stand-
outs are Niels Arestrup
as the aforementioned
grandfather, Tom
Hiddleston as an army
captain, and Toby
Kebbell, who as one of
the soldiers in the no
man's land scene, brings
a degree of brevity to
affairs.

Those of a cynical
disposition won't find
much to savour here, the
film requiring you to
buy into the bonding
power of a horse.

However, if you do
then you will find plenty
to enjoy - even if your
teeth will need a clean
afterwards, based on the
amount of syrup you
will be consuming
through its 146-minute
running time.

While this *War Horse*
is a fine pedigree, it's
also tremendously sugary!

VERDICT - A solid
adaptation livened by
epic direction from Steven
Spielberg and some strong turns, *War
Horse* is very good but not great. While it plays
on the emotion, it doesn't quite deliver the
pay-off you would hope for, though you would
need a heart as empty as a quarry to not feel
something come the end credits! Enjoyable.

**SEE THIS IF YOU
LIKED:** *Saving Private
Ryan* (1998)

STUDENTS' AWARDS AT PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY



**Kieran Davies, Jacob Ellis, Rhodri Morgan
and Ioan Williams.**

A PRIZEGIVING ceremony was held recently in the school hall at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

The Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan was invited as guest speaker and to distribute GCSE and A Level certificates.

He also awarded Ioan Williams and Kieran Davies with the Mrs Janet Davies Memorial Award for excellence in design and technology, and Jacob Ellis with the Fflur Bedwyr Award for exceptional contribution and attitude towards Welsh culture and ethos.

Ioan Williams, Gareth Wilkins (head of design and technology) and Kieran Davies.

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Out and About with The GEM

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, is holding a surgery tomorrow (Friday, January 20) at Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys, from 4pm to 6pm. No appointment necessary.

Care and repair

CARE and Repair in the Vale, which helps older people with repairs and maintenance in their home, will be in Cowbridge Library on Friday (January 20) between 10am-2pm.

Treharne residents group meets

TREHARNE residents group in Barry will meet at 6pm on Monday, January 23 at Ty Iolo to discuss housing matters, fly-

tipping in the communal areas of the flats and an update from the police on the recent allotment incident.

For further information, contact tenant officer Heather Powney on 01446 709895, or email her at HPowney@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Messy Church

ON January 23, at 3.30pm-5pm, there will be the regular monthly Messy Church at Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry. Children from nursery to year-6 (with parent/carer) are welcome.

On Monday, January 30 from 3.45pm-5.15pm, Messy Church takes place at Saint David's Methodist Church, Winston Road, Colcot. Children from reception class to year-6 (with parent/carer) wel-

come. For information about churches visit www.valeofglamorgan-circus.org.uk or contact Rev Pete Taylor or Deacon Samantha Taylor.

Contact 01446 406262 or deacon-sam@live.co.uk.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan's charity coffee morning is being held at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, January 24 at 10.30am to 12 noon. All proceeds will go to the Amelia Trust Farm.

St Dwynwen celebration

CELEBRATE St Dwynwen's Day at the Green Dragon Inn, Llancaradon on Wednesday, January 25 at 7pm. £30 for a three-course meal and coffee/tea. Tickets

from Rhoswen Deiniol on 01446 405984.

Oils demo

COWBRIDGE Art Society will meet at the Cowbridge

Community Centre at 7pm on Thursday, January 26 for a demonstration in oils by local artist and VOGA member David Fairhurst (see www.siluresgaller.co.uk). Visitors welcome.

For further details of the society, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Poems and songs

ART4U is holding its annual celebration of *The Coming of The Light*, a walking contemplation, to which everyone is welcome at the Knap Gardens, Barry on February 5 at 4pm. Entry free, donations appreciated.

The three above events are being held to support the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod 2012.

Come listen to the band!

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall is hosting an evening with the Mid Glamorgan Accordion Band on Friday, January 27 at 7pm.

Tickets will cost £3 to include refreshments. Everybody welcome.

The hall will hold its

AGM on Thursday, February 23 at 6pm.

Eisteddfod Fundraising

THERE will be a quiz at St Francis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry, on Saturday, February 4 at 7pm.

Tickets £6 include light refreshments.

Bi-lingual event. Call Heulwen Cooper – 01446 733784.

Light celebration

ART4U is holding its annual celebration of *The Coming of The Light*, a walking contemplation, to which everyone is welcome at the Knap Gardens, Barry on February 5 at 4pm. Entry free, donations appreciated.

Local roadworks

TEMPORARY traffic control: Broad Street Barry. Port Road East between the junctions of Meggett Road and Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry. Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge to Nash Manor and Pentre Meyrick to Llantwit Major.

Road closure: Trehedyn Lane, Pendoylan.

Railway book is a labour of love

Railways of South Wales by Adrian Kenny, published by Ian Allan. Review/Mike Wilcock.

HAVING taken almost three years to complete, this 128-page volume of full colour images of railways in south Wales is another book to add to your collection, if you're interested in this fascinating subject.

Being a personal friend of mine, I know Adrian has travelled many miles, and climbed many hills and mountains to take that special image. Unless there's full sun on his subject, he would rather return to his home in Cardiff to take a sub-standard shot.

Locally Adrian has featured passenger railtours at Tondu in the Ogmore Vale, special weed killer trains employed to clear leaves off the line near Barry Docks station, freight trains in Barry Docks and at Barry station the Structure Gauging train.

In 2008, he was able to take some nighttime shots of the first train to depart from Lafarges's Aberthaw Cement Works. Having resumed revenue earning services for the first time in 15 years, the picture shows the Canadian-built class



A First Great Western service running through Aberthaw on St David's Day 2009. In the background is Aberthaw signal box and to the left, the reception sidings for Aberthaw Power Station.

66 diesel awaiting

not just left on the departure to Uskmouth. Every page has detailed information regarding the location, date, type of train and locomotive class.

It's the kind of book that will be looked at on regular occasions and

MHW

Help vulnerable elderly appeal

AGE Concern is making an urgent appeal to the public for much-needed funds – to help local older people in crisis.

Jeff Hawkins, CEO for Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale stressed: "We desperately need additional funds so that we can reach out and help many more older people in dire need of some everyday things that will protect and promote their independence. "Regrettably it is isolated and lonely older

people who are least likely to ask for help. The practical low cost support funded by the Crisis Concern appeal can dramatically improve an older person's life."

Age Concern is asking the public to make donations, organise fundraising events at work or in their local communities, and for local businesses to show their support.

Visit www.age-concern-cardiff.org.uk or contact Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan on telephone 02920 527186.

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Fri to Sat: 12 - 2.30 • 5.00 - 11.00

www.riverview668.co.uk

MONDAY

Barry 4.30 & 6.30pm Brynson Hall, Junction of Court Road & Llanover Street Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose - 6.30pm Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth 5.30pm & 7.30pm Elfed Avenue Methodist Church, Elfed Road Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY

Barry - 5.45pm Market Street Social Club Upstairs Function Room Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm St. Davids Methodist Church Hall, Winston Road Annamarie - 01446 736534

Llanwit Major 4.45 & 6.45pm The Old School Wine Street Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm The Old School South Road Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry 4.45 & 6.45pm St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell Annamarie - 01446 736534

Cardiff - 6.00pm All Welcome 8.00pm MEN ONLY Rob - 07708 941279 Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Barry - 6.00pm Cadotton Methodist Church Church Road Joanne - 01446 404897

Cowbridge - 6.00pm Cowbridge Rugby Club Diane - 02920 551206

Barry - 6.00pm Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall Sarah - 07525852288

Penarth 5.00pm & 7.00pm All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth 5.00pm & 7.00pm All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square Tracy - 07894 275853

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AFTER a successful launch in Swansea two years ago, the team behind the Thai Elephant restaurant is bringing the formula to Cowbridge – adding another facet to the town's varied dining experiences.

The restaurant gave foodies a sneak preview at the Cowbridge Food Festival, offering samples to passers by, and made quite a hit on the day.

Last week, the restaurant opened with no fuss, and the owner, Aum Rotjarin Scott, told The GEM: "People just came in off the street, and we were soon packed!"

In fact, the staff are hard at work making an upstairs room available – and this will be fitted out in the same style as downstairs.

And that style is bound to cause a few intakes of breath, because the restaurant has been fitted out so that hand-crafted Thai statues and wood carvings are everywhere.

As you walk in the door, you are faced with a wall carving that, says Aum, took one Thai craftsman a year to make.

The restaurant tables are glass-topped, so that diners can look down at the elaborate wood carvings that are feature of each one.

There are golden buddhas and even the chairs in the waiting area are hand-crafted, lacquered and modelled on ceremonial elephant seats.

It was two years ago that Aum loaded a 40-foot container in her home village near Chang Mai in northern Thailand and brought over the fixtures and fittings that made the Swansea restaurant a hit.

That formula has now been repeated, and the contents of a similar container now adorn the Thai Elephant in Cowbridge.

Of course, the decor is only part of great dining experience, and Aum's business partner, Chris Lloyd, said: "The quality of food will always be the key factor, and our success in Swansea makes us confident that people in Cowbridge will like what we have to offer.

"Thai cooking covers a wide range of styles, from quite spicy and piquant curries, to Thai specialities that offer a real aromatic experience.

"Also, almost every item on the menu can be done in a vegetarian style – apart from the considerable numbers of vegetarian dishes that are fixtures on the menu."

The Thai Elephant offers varied starters, and a wide range of main courses – it would take a long time to get through the different styles – and also a range of home-made desserts, including Thai pancakes and deep-fried ice cream!

Cowbridge has another dining out experience to offer residents and visitors, with a real Thai welcome for all!



**1 Town Hall Square, COWBRIDGE CF71 7DD.
Telephone 01446 771884**

**OPEN 6 DAYS: Tues-Sat 12 noon - 2.30pm;
6pm - 11pm. Sundays 1pm - 9pm.**

Aum invites you to enjoy her delightful authentic cuisine whilst absorbing an ambience to enhance any occasion.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Prison inmate's 10 stitches after pool cue attack

AN inmate of Parc Prison, Bridgend, attacked a fellow prisoner in an effort to "bolster his image of a hard man" - it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

His victim was struck with a pool cue which snapped on impact and he needed 14 stitches for a head wound.

Mohammed Haji (20) of no fixed address, was sentenced to three years in a young offender institution. He admitted

a charge of wounding with intent.

Recorder Winston Roddick said: "This offence occurred while you were a serving prisoner. You struck a fellow prisoner several times to the head in an unprovoked assault.

"It was a sustained and violent attack, and you showed no remorse. You committed the offence to boost your reputation as someone to fear."

James Wilson, prosecuting, said his victim was serving in the prison canteen when Haji com-

plained about a portion of cake he had been given, and called him a name.

Soon afterwards, Haji attacked him with a pool cue, leaving him stunned. At one point, he attempted to protect himself with his right forearm.

A security officer saw four or five blows being delivered and the cue shattered into pieces.

Said Mr Wilson: "He deliberately sought out his victim, who had done nothing to him."

Haji was serving a sentence for causing a bomb hoax.

His counsel, Saf Salman, said: "In the circumstances, mitigation can only be confined to the length of sentence.

"The injuries were nasty and unpleasant. The victim was vulnerable but there was a background between the men.

"He had a destructive childhood and just drifted along."

Mr Salman said a report indicated that he carried out the attack to bolster his image as a hard man.

MP backs Big Energy Week

week.org.uk for details of local Big Energy Week events in your area.

Ms Moon MP said: "Fuel bills are a big worry for many people at the moment.

"Big Energy Week is helping people to save money on their bills, by encouraging them to contact their supplier to check they are on the best tariff and payment method for them."

Visit www.bigenenergy.org.uk

BRACKLA MAN HAD CROP OF CANNABIS

SKUNK cannabis plants with a potential yield of a crop of the drug worth £11,000 were spotted when police searched a flat in Brackla.

Cardiff Crown Court

later heard that the

owner of the vegetation,

David Oliver (30)

described himself as "a

bit of a smoker."

Oliver, unemployed of Garden Court, Brackla, admitted producing cannabis and was sentenced to nine months imprisonment, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said Oliver had been producing the plants at his home, which was searched on June 27.

The plants, totalling 26, were found in the attic, and the street value

of a potential crop was £11,000.

"It was a well-organized operation," said Mr Greenwood.

Oliver said he had found out how to grow the plants from the internet and purchased a 10-month suspended sentence for affray and shoplifting.

Said Recorder Greg Bull, "I'm not going to send you to prison."

He was fined £50 with a suspended sentence period extended for six months, was made subject to a supervi-

"He insisted he didn't sell the cannabis to anyone."

Said Judge Rhys

Rowlands: "You have let

yourself down and your

partner. The last thing

she wanted to be told

was that you would be

going to prison.

"This cannabis was going to be used by you and you alone, and there is no suggestion that you were going to supply it.

"The operation, though small scale, was sophisticated. You have a lot to lose if you behave in this way again."

Regional AM condemns station plans

Conservative regional AM Suzy Davies has expressed disappointment that planners have given the go-ahead for a 25MW biomass power station near Coytraham.

The scheme, by Morgan Credit Wales, was opposed by villagers from Coytraham, Shwt, Betws and Tondu, who formed an action group to fight the plans for the former Llynfi Power Station.

Mrs Davies said that she was sorry that residents had not won more support from councillors.

She said: "They put up a strong case about why this station should not be increased in capacity from the 10MW that was originally

approved. They produced convincing arguments about the problems that might arise with the supply of the woodchip, issues to do with how the fuel will be transported to the site and also possible environmental problems that could be caused.

"While I welcome news that all the woodchip will be transported by rail, there is always the fear that these plans will fall through and that villagers in Tondu and Coytraham will see a procession of big lorries carrying fuel along the main road.

"It is disappointing to find that only one of them voted against with one more abstaining. The rest have approved it."

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D705.

● £2,000: 479806.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 397126,

964070, 292818, 518897,

883821, 858492, 338803,

193728, 456273, 684953,

469497, 790169, 344285,

661807, 605854, 591875,

159348, 468436, 469147,

455509.

● £5: 154304, 312735,

484925, 127386, 303302,

171239, 878364, 541713,

886778, 805088, 452532,

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Suspended sentence for man found 'dossing' in creamery

POLICE searching the Old Creamery Depot at Brackla Industrial Estate found a man

"dossing" there for the night, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Leighton Holder (39) who lives in Monmouth, was convicted by Vale magistrates of possessing cannabis and was committed to the Crown Court for sentence. He was also in breach of a 10-month suspended sentence for affray and shoplifting.

Said Recorder Greg Bull, "I'm not going to send you to prison."

He was fined £50 with a suspended sentence period extended for six months, was made subject to a supervi-

sion order for six months and ordered to pay costs of £100.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that last November, the police were patrolling Brackla Industrial Estate and drove into the yard of the Old Creamery, and went inside.

The defendant appeared saying: "Alright, Butt? I'm here." He was searched and in a tobacco tin the officers found a quantity of cannabis.

His solicitor Robert Chudleigh said: "He has made considerable progress with the suspended sentence order, though he does have convictions for drug abuse. He has a nervous condition and suffers panic attacks."

No 'sign' of joy for local businessmen

LAST week, The traffic.

He went on: instance as well. "The advertisement is considered to be a particularly garish form of would like to discuss this signage that is entirely case in any detail, they out of keeping with this attractive area of directly and specific advice can be given.

"The specific questions the proprietors ask should also be put to the council directly."

TIM CHAPMAN

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Politicians call for action over threat jobs at Peacocks

POLITICIANS from all parties are demanding action to help the Cardiff-based clothing group, Peacocks, which is likely to go into administration.

Appeals have gone out to the Welsh Government and Westminster, after the RBS bank declined to continue talks on restructuring Peacock's debt – a debt the company has carried since a management buyout in 2006.

The firm has said it has filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators. That gives it a 10-day moratorium from creditors as it seeks to broker deals to sell off its Bon Marche chain and secure new investment for its Peacocks business.

Peacocks employs around 1,000 people in south Wales – not counting staff in its stores in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs..

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Conservatives in the Welsh Assembly, tabled an emergency question for the Minister for Business & Enterprise.

He said: "This is very

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

worrying news and comes after an incredibly difficult trading period for many high street retailers. The vast majority of these jobs are in the south Wales central region that I represent."

Welsh Labour MPs have written to the UK Government Business Secretary, Vince Cable, expressing concern that the company, which made an operating profit last year of £27 million, may be forced into administration – as a result of a syndicate of banks, led by the state-owned RBS, refusing to provide further working capital.

The letter asks if the Business Secretary is satisfied that the decision taken by RBS is in the wider interest of the Exchequer and taxpayers.

Lib-Dem AM Eluned Parrott, who is the shadow business minister in the Assembly, said: "Peacocks is a profitable company, a strong brand and a valued member of the high street.

"It is my belief that the speedy and effective re-structuring of its debt

"Hopefully, Peacocks will be able to find the money in the next week or so to keep the business afloat.

"If that fails, then we can only hope the administrator will be able to sell the company on to another firm that wants to keep both shops open.

"Like most people, I am frustrated by the idea that we, as taxpayers, poured billions into keeping the banks afloat.

"We didn't do that so that they could close down large household names who employ thousands of people who are taxpayers themselves.

"Woolworths was let down in almost exactly the same way."

Skaters' awards

THE Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club is celebrating the success of four of its members who gained medals at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, skating in front of two judges from the Federation of Artistic Roller Skating.

Katie Vaughan gained her elementary in dance, while Donna Daly, Anne-Marie Escott and Amy Goodwin gained their inter-silver medal in dance. This is quite an achievement as the club has only been running for a year.

Come and join us, and learn how to dance on skates. We meet at the Colcot Sports Centre on Thursdays, 7pm-9pm and at Llantwit Leisure Centre on Saturdays, 3-5pm. Each session is £3, with an annual membership fee of £3.

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Company director Craig Harewood says some customers are unaware of the difference between an Orangery and Conservatory so we would like to take the opportunity to explain. With Future Orangeries coming more and more Popular offering their unique style and contemporary look. You can design your Orangery / Conservatory whichever way you wish and that's where we can help you we have a full design package which lets you see your designs attached to your current property before hand, which again Craig says, helps customers who are unsure of the end result.

An Orangery has a slightly different take on traditional conservatories with their brick pillars and lantern style roof. Orangeries offer more privacy than conservatory styles the interior height provides a breathtaking focal point through which light floods in to your home. Today's orangeries, like conservatory styles, are generally buildings with glazed sides and brick or wood supports. Orangeries use less glass. Conservatory offer more of a traditional style roof ranging from Lean to through to double hip depending on size and style. Visit our website at futurewindowsolutions.co.uk or contact our team free on 0800 032 0921.

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PLAID POLITICIAN WARNS: 'Welsh voices will struggle to be heard in Westminster'

THE Plaid Cymru spokesman for the Vale has pointed out that proposals to reduce the number of MPs in Wales will mean "Welsh voices will struggle to be heard" in Westminster.

Dr Ian Johnson, who fought as a candidate in the general election in 2010, also insisted that local pockets of rural deprivation, and areas of poverty in Barry, were likely to continue – because they were classed as part of the affluent Vale of Glamorgan constituency.

He explained: "While the number of MPs in Parliament is being cut by 8 per cent from 650 to 600, Welsh MPs are being cut by 25 per cent from 40 to 30.

"This is a far bigger cut than any other country in the UK and means that Welsh voices will struggle to be heard".

Dr Johnson said he welcomed

the notion of Sully returning to the Vale constituency which maintained a mix of both urban and rural areas.

However, he warned there would continue to be problems in addressing deprivation while statistics were analysed at constituency level.

"Although I would like Barry to be a separate constituency on its own, the rules introduced by the Westminster government meant that the town's population is not enough to justify that.

"The problem with the Vale constituency as it stands is that some of the wealth of the rural Vale – where that exists – masks the effects of poverty in some parts of Barry, and, indeed, poverty in other parts of the Vale.

"This means that constituency wide statistics do not show the true picture of the area's economic status in the same way that

more localised data will do."

He explained: "One of the problems of a constituency which is as mixed as the Vale is that constituency level data doesn't always illuminate current trends.

"For example, unemployment statistics, such as those recently published don't show up hot-spots. Under the previous Welsh Government, when Plaid Cymru were in power, Barry was nominated as a regeneration area precisely because the town differs from the rural hinterland in the Vale.

"In fact, some might argue that if it wasn't for the rural Vale then Barry would have been included in the area of Wales which receives European funding."

FOOTNOTE: What do GEM readers think? Email: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk, or write to the address given on page 2.

Local firms are in the running for top awards

FOUR local firms and a Bridgend entrepreneur are all in the running to win this year's prestigious South Wales Chamber of Commerce Awards, run in association with the University of Glamorgan Business School.

Clinical trial company, Biotech Services International, based in Bridgend Industrial Estate, is up for the international company of the year award; while Staedter (UK) Ltd, based in Pencoed, has been shortlisted for the excellence in marketing award.

Just Perfect Catering Ltd is battling it out to win most promising growth business, while Donna Turner-Kot of energy consortium, which delivers vocational programmes to offenders in custodial establishments and helps to secure them jobs on their release, has been shortlisted for the entrepreneur of the year.

Also in line for an award is Professional Driver Services (most promising growth business).

All of them will find out whether they are winners at a glittering award ceremony in the City Hall, Cardiff on February 1, hosted by broadcaster Mai Davies.

The awards celebrate business excellence through the successes and achievements of its accredited Chambers of Commerce and their members.

Graham Morgan, director of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, said: "The

economy remains extremely challenging with trading conditions being as tough as ever, and unemployment being at its highest since comparable records began.

"In spite of all this, businesses in Wales have continued to thrive, and the awards seek to recognise these outstanding achievements, highlighting them as shining examples of inspiration to others and illustrating that successes can still be made in these difficult times."

Winners could go through to the British Chamber of Commerce Awards in November, with the chance to scoop the winning prize fund of £50,000.

Charity concert

THE annual charity concert, organised by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Andy Banks, will take place on January 28 in Cowbridge Comprehensive School's new theatre.

The concert features Cowbridge Male Voice Choir and also three prize-winning young musicians from Cardiff and the Vale.

Tickets are available from Arthur John and Cowbridge Town Hall.

The charities that will benefit are Wales Air Ambulance and Marie Curie Cancer Care.



COMMUNITY NEWS LLANBETHERRY & LLANCARFAN Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

WE'RE BACK!

IT has been some months since we last penned a column, as we were fortunate to spend November and December in Australia and New Zealand, culminating with Christmas in Perth with our son Simon and his family (35°C on Christmas Day and a swim in the Indian Ocean!).

A great deal has happened in Llanbether and during our absence, not least the excellent news that we have won the Phase 2 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the further work required at Saint Cadoc's to restore the wall paintings, the Reredos and to build a new vestry.

A number of people have commented that even after our return, no Llanbether and Llanbether news has been forthcoming.

Well, unless people pass me details of interesting events or other occurrences, then I cannot report – so please let me have any news and I shall make sure that the column is written.

Finally, what a small world! On our flight back from Australia and Singapore the cabin services manager on Qantas was Craig Wharton from Llanbetherian – and on the aircraft with us were Keith and Kay Hancock, formerly of the Wild Goose, Llanbether!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Green drinks

GREEN drinks are being served at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on Tuesday, January 24 from 7.30pm.

This is an open and informal monthly get-together to chat and share information on how to live in a more

sustainable way in our community.

Key discussions will focus on local currency, skill sharing and time banking. All are welcome.

Contact: 07712 196150 or transitioncowbridge@gmail.com

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, January 26, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall.

The speaker will be Gaynor Witchard, who will talk on 'Behind the scenes at the RHS Show'. New members welcome.



Full houses enjoy a local pantomime!

PHOTOGRAPHS
by IAN DIXON

THE Peterston Entertainment Society presented its 2012 pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast* on January 12, 13 and 14.

It played to full houses and had all the usual panto jokes, songs and dances.

The age range of the cast was from 12 years old to 70 years old.

Saturday evening's performance even featured a cameo role from BBC weatherman Derek Brockway.





The Business Centre celebrates its fifth anniversary today!

The Business Centre – where we take care of you while you take care of your business

ONE of the Vale's great business success stories in recent years celebrates its fifth anniversary today.

On January 19, 2007, The Business Centre was opened in Barry by the local AM, Jane Hutt, bringing an exciting new business innovation to the area.

James Mason, the Centre Manager, explained: "The Business Centre provides flexible serviced office space with a host of services, which include the shared office suite, virtual office facilities, conference and meeting room hire and IT Training Suite.

"All these excellent facilities are supported by a free in-house gym, free car parking and an on-site cafe, The Coffee Zone.

"The Business Centre also provides extensive business support facilities, such as secretarial services and all the latest technology with IT and telecoms infrastructure helping you concentrate on what's really important, your business."

It means The Business Centre can provide a flexible service, tailored across the whole spectrum, helping new start-up businesses, freelancers or single operators, medium sized businesses and national companies. But the centre

offers even more, its own 'break-out' areas, where people can have a quiet chat on sofas outside the office suites, and a designated outdoor area to relax on sunny days.

The Business Centre is part of the family-run Masons Moving Group Ltd, founded in the Vale in 1905 – with a family inspiration behind it.

James explained that once companies understood the concept of flexible, serviced office space at The Business Centre, they could see the many advantages it has over running their own premises.

He pointed out: "With companies looking for flexibility in the current climate, lease agreements can bear higher risks, where businesses might have to commit to 10 or 15 year leases – let alone having to set up and fund all the facilities, equipment and support services that are required to make up an office suite.

"Here at The Business Centre, our commitment to you is to provide your business with a fully serviced office suite, ready for your arrival – with no hassle, no capital outlay and next to no downtime affecting that crucial part of running a business – time."

"The Business Centre can provide future clients with a fully serviced opera-



ABOVE: The Business Centre team provides a huge range of office services and support for business people.



ABOVE:
The centre is located just off Cardiff Road, Barry.

tional office suite, equipped with IT and telecoms infrastructure within 24 hours of a viewing."

The variety of businesses housed on the site is impressive.

James said: "The companies who operate from The Business Centre vary, but are all looking for a cost-effective and efficient service for them to operate their businesses.

"The clientele at the centre varies with a majority of professions operating from serviced offices such as financial consultants, web designers, Curves – the ladies' gym, The Beauty Spot – Hair & Beauty Salon, We Buy Any Car, recruitment consultants, security

companies and many more. Over the years our occupancy has steadily increased, but with the economic downturn and the risk factor for all companies increasing, our flexible license agreements, short notice periods and our cost effective office space provides us and businesses a platform to build a strong business model."

The Business Centre is located just off Cardiff Road on the eastern outskirts of Barry.

It is the ideal location for companies who operate in the Vale or want easy access to Cardiff, but don't want staff enduring the hassle and inconveniences

of a daily commute and restricted, costly parking. For businesses who aim to start up at a difficult economic time, and want to fix costs, or for companies wanting to reduce operational overheads, The Business Centre offers that ideal solution.

Over the last five years, The Business Centre has become a vital part in the local economy.

To find out more information about the facilities that are available, please call James Mason on: 01446 739911 or 0800 634 9920.

The Business Centre's stated aim is: 'We Take Care Of You While You Take Care Of Your Business'.



ABOVE: Business people can take advantage of the centre's state-of-the art gym.



ABOVE:
The centre's convenient in-house cafe, The Coffee Zone.

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Remembering WWII – when black US soldiers were stationed in the Vale

Further to recent correspondence in The GEM regarding the fate of two black American GIs, readers may be interested in further details of the case.

In June 1944, The Western Mail carried the following story.

(GEM NOTE: At the time, the term 'coloured' was the accepted way to describe anyone who was black. It continued to be the accepted word until the 1970s, when the Black Power movement 'reclaimed' the word 'black'. Names have been removed from the report).

Two coloured Soldiers To Hang

Two coloured American soldiers, and

were sentenced to death by hanging at an American military court in south Wales at nearly midnight on Wednesday for raping a 30-year-old woman from Barry living apart from her husband. col-

lapsed when the sentence of the court was announced, but his companion was unmove.

The offence took place on June 2 in a field adja-

cent to Sully Hospital, where the woman had been a patient for eight months. She had been discharged some weeks before and on June 2 returned to the hospital for treatment. About 5 o'clock in the evening, she was taking a path across fields to the Sully bus stop when she was intercepted by the two men in a path overhung by bushes. She was threatened with violence before the offences were committed.

The men later had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment by General Dwight D Eisenhower.

However, another story which ran in the same month shows perhaps how the word of a white GI was held in more esteem.

A white American soldier, Technician 4th Grade _____ aged 23, was found not guilty at a court-martial held in South Wales on Monday on a charge of rape, the penalty for which under American military law is death or imprisonment for life. He was acquitted.

The complaint was laid against him by _____, of Cardiganshire, a ward maid at Sully Hospital,

Dr Jonathan Hicks looks at the impact African-American troops had in the area.

Barry.

There was a court of nine American officers, with a colonel as president.

The woman described what happened on the beach at Sully.

At the close of the cross examination, the president said to the complainant: "We must have very definite evidence. This court has the power to pass the death sentence. If we seem to be hard with you, it is only so that we can be fair to both sides."

In reply to questions, the complainant said she bit the accused's hand and tried to scratch him. She had not seen him before that night.

Several witnesses were called, and the evidence of the accused was that the woman did not resist in any way. She agreed to meet him again the following night if she was not working.

After the court had consulted in private, the president announced that the accused was acquitted.

The complaint was laid against him by _____, of

Cardiganshire, a ward maid at Sully Hospital,

and sometimes extreme provocation that African-American soldiers were forced to endure, both from white American soldiers and the local populace during their stay in the United Kingdom.

Part of a letter from, as he termed himself, 'a coloured soldier', stationed in Belfast during 1943, made this heartfelt plea:

Regardless to where a man is born or regardless to his colour, every man has his right to enjoy life here on this earth. Just because I am a dark man doesn't mean I am not intelligent.

The anatomy of the white man is the same as the dark man. God created all men as brothers, and my belief is that since we are all here in Ireland, we should live as brothers and sisters and not as enemies. We hate to walk the streets of Belfast merely because we are insulated.

Tensions sometimes ran high between Barry residents and the American troops. In January 1944, the local press carried a story about a fight between white GIs and two local

men in the Witchell Hotel in Cadoxton which resulted in the two Americans being hit with broken bottles and beer glasses. Both men required stitches in their faces and heads.

Yet for the most part, the Americans, whatever colour their skin was, were welcomed into the local community. At a recent event at Pontypridd Memorial, where fellow historians and I staged an exhibition of wartime artefacts and memorabilia in support of the dedication of the new Pontypridd War Memorial, a visitor told me the following story.

During the Second World War black American troops were stationed in the Pontypridd district. His mother and father became friendly with several of them and invited them to their home for Sunday lunch. This became a regular occurrence.

One evening the father and one of the visitors decided to go to the local pub for a drink. On the way they were approached by a group of white GIs. The black GI stepped off the pavement into the road to allow the white soldiers to pass.

The father asked why he had done that and was told in no uncertain terms that that was what was expected in America. He replied with this, "All week long I work down the pit and at the end of a shift my face is the same colour as yours. While you are with me you'll never do that again."

Years after the War had ended, there was a knock on the door and the gentleman who told me this story answered it. The same American stood there with his wife and two children. He had come back to Wales to show his family the Welsh people who had been so kind to him during the War.

The African-American soldiers were stationed in two areas in the Vale – Penarth and Barry. As of December 31, 1943, there were just two units based in Barry, the 413 Engineer Dump Truck Company and the 95 Engineers.

But in the build up to D-Day, these number



ABOVE:
Black American
troops in their
camp.



ABOVE:
Tank crews check their machine guns.



ABOVE:
Joe Louis, the world
heavyweight
champion.

stayed at the G-40 American camp in Barry for one or two nights.

The black American troops made an enormous contribution to the war effort, not just supplying troops but in combat as well. They were a resource much underused by the American military.

Their record is a proud one and these men deserve to be remembered in the Vale for far more than just one unfortunate incident.

The 'Wartime Weekend' being held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the American troops coming to the Vale of Glamorgan will take place over the weekend of June 16/17 on Barry Waterfront.

Further details can be found at www.barrywaterfront.info. Jonathan Hicks can be contacted on 07708 255295.

The GEM is delighted to announce its support for this fabulous event and readers can look forward to many articles and features on the presence of the American troops in the Vale in the period leading up to the living history weekend.

Vale w a y s walks
FRIDAY, January 20, at 1pm, 'Another Try!' Starting at the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major, contact 07908 924576.

Stay and Play
ABERKENFIG 'Stay and Play' is held on Thursday mornings at 10am-11am in the Len Evans Hall (near Welfare Hall), Aberkenfig. For more information, contact 07809 157756.

Light walk
ART4U is holding its annual celebration, The Coming Of The Light, a walking contemplation, to which everyone is welcome, at the Knap Gardens, under the shelter, Barry, on February 5 at 4pm. Admission free, donations appreciated. You are invited to bring a candle, and to wrap up warm!

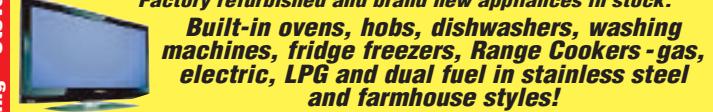
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The Vale of Glamorgan Building Excellence Awards 2012

The Building Excellence Awards are organised by the Building Control Group at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Building Control Surveyors from the Building Control Group have nominated builders who have achieved high quality building work in the following categories:

- EXTENSION/ALTERATION
- HOME CONVERSION/ NEW DWELLINGS
- SOCIAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- PUBLIC/COMMUNITY BUILDINGS
- COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

Criteria:

- Compliance with building regulations and energy efficiency
- Supplying and managing information (giving of notices and information relative to the work)
- Speed of fault rectification
- Site environment, safety and storage of materials (so as not to be detrimental to their use)
- Client/customer satisfaction

BUILDERS and developers who use the building regulation service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, will be attending the 'Building Awards' dinner organised through the Building Control Group of the Council.

For the ninth year in succession, it will be held at the Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, on January 20.

The nominations for the awards are provided by the council's Building Control Surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to the completion of building work.

Coun Jeffery James, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, stated:

"This is the ninth successive year of the 'Building Awards' and I have great pleasure in providing recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high-quality customer-oriented service.

"The nominations go to show yet again that there are several excellent examples of high-quality construction projects that have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan. Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with



current building regulations requires a very high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement".

Marcus Goldsworthy, Operational Manager for the Development and Building Control Group, said:

"Building regulations have a key role whenever you decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and the devolution of the building regulations to the Welsh Assembly, reducing carbon emissions will now be at the



Thomas, stated:

"Development of any size has a major impact on the day-to-day lives of people who are undertaking building projects. Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying, not only the customer needs, but also the terms of the legislation.

"The Building Awards will provide all those involved with well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard".

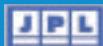
The Vale of Glamorgan Council would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event, without whom it would not be possible to recognise the builders and developers whose quality of work is making a positive difference to the environment of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Winners of the Vale event will go forward to the LABC south Wales 'Building Awards' dinner at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 20. This will be hosted by television and radio personality Jason Mohammed.

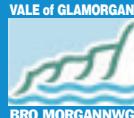
The ultimate achievement can be recognised at national level, where the winners of the south Wales event will be nominated into the LABC 'National Building Awards', which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England.

It will be held in London in November this year.

The Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards. Kindly sponsored by:



Extension/Alterations



THE work comprises a two-storey extension to the rear of this traditional, brick-built cottage.

It was carried out under a building notice, which required the builder and Building Control (BC) Surveyor to work closely together, as the work was not pre-approved by BC.

The builder chose to use matching imperial bricks laid to the same traditional bond as the cottage, to ensure that the extension was in character with the local surroundings.

The builder carefully matched the window style and other details, such as the floor tiles, to achieve an understated but outstanding contemporary extension.



Agent: LeGuilcher Sandhu
Architecture, Penarth
Contractor: Lee Bennett



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THIS project involved significant remodelling to both single and two-storey extensions to the front, side and rear of the original house. The work has totally transformed a rather mundane building into a new home with a crisp modern style and finish.

Due to the extensive changes, this was a complicated task for the builder who appeared to relish the challenge. Executed under a 'building notice', the project required close liaison between all of the parties.



The changes that had to be made as work progressed, created further difficulties for the builder to overcome, which he did in full consultation with Building Control.

Agent: Mr Adrian Gracia
Contractor: Town & Counties



We are delighted to be nominated for the Building Excellence Awards



Woodside Cottage, Westra, Dinas Powys

Agent: Mr G Beer

Agent: Architect Oriel Design Ltd., Steven Price

Contractor: Gibbons Bros., St. Brides, Newport

THE talented builder had a genuine desire to do a good job and work closely with the local authority building inspector. The work included demolishing an earlier, small extension, that was of basic design without any real relation to the existing cottage.

The property is the left hand cottage of a pair and the sloping site's poor access was an extra challenge to the builder. The new extension has been carefully detailed to blend with the character of the cottage and mirror the extension previously constructed on the other end of the pair of cottages. The front windows have been specially made and the arches with keystones carefully constructed to match the original.

The ground floor has a large kitchen with dining space and a rear sun room. The first floor comprises a bedroom, family bathroom and ensuite to a bedroom. The work is of a very high standard, which is enhanced by the high quality materials selected by the builder.



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New Dwelling/Home Conversion



5, Raisdale Road, Penarth

Agent:

Mr C Le Guilcher, Penarth

THE application for this new dwelling was originally submitted as an extension, with significant alterations to an existing detached property. The extent of the work was such that very little of the original property remained and was, therefore, demolished – to allow a completely new build.

The new dwelling features colonial style columns, window surrounds and face brick detailing, to create a three-storey property. A large open hallway with a feature staircase, leads to four ensuite bedrooms and family bathrooms on the first floor level; and attic trusses allow the creation of two additional bedrooms within the roof space.

During the course of construction, an attached swimming pool room, and detached garage were added, to complete a dwelling of considerable substance.



New House, Maes Melyn, Cowbridge

THIS application was originally submitted as 'remodelling' of an existing dwelling. However, due to the extent of demolition required, it was then re-constructed as a new dwelling.

The modernistic design of substantially glazed walls and mono-pitched roofs is in complete contrast to the traditional surrounding dwellings, yet due to the retention of much landscaping it fits neatly into the area. The interior features a large open plan hallway and gallery landing, with glazed balustrading. Four bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms occupy the first floor, with access onto a front-facing balcony.

The architect chose a 'full plans option' with supporting structural and SAP calculations –

while the builder/owner maintained regular contact with Building Control to satisfy all elements of construction.



Agent: Nigel Arnold
Architect, Penarth

Contractor:
RT (Contractors) Ltd



Barn 2, Redfarm, Llangan

Agent: Allan Shaw of Porthcawl

Contractor: Jonathan David

THIS is the second of three barns to be converted adjacent to Red Farm, Llangan. The building comprises a two-storey granary and two single-storey wings.

Due to considerable deterioration of the roof structure, new oak trusses were made to duplicate the profile of the existing trusses, and the entire roof was recovered in natural slate.

The features of the stone work to the external walls were enhanced by neat re-pointing and some new openings were made by replicating the existing quoin work and arch detailing.

The thermal linings to floors, walls and roof ensure an energy-efficient building with considerable character. The builder

chose the 'building notice' option, together with all supporting information, and maintained close contact and co-operation with Building Control.



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Jonathan David Building Contractors

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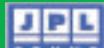
Tel: 07803 504081
Brook Cottage, Treoes, Vale of Glamorgan CF35 5DH

Allan David Shaw
B. ARCH., R.I.B.A
Chartered Architect

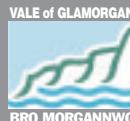
Pleased to have been associated with the Barn Conversion Development at Redfarm, Llangan, Vale of Glamorgan

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Commercial Projects



Pier 64, Penarth Portway Marina

THE building consists of two storeys, with a ground floor restaurant and first floor offices. It is a piled steelwork structure with Bison concrete units which are suspended over the water, giving unobstructed views of the marina.

The initial stages were undertaken with the aid of a long reach digger and divers to clear the rock base under water. Steel piles were installed to protect the piling work, and a floating pontoon was also used to enable some of the piling work. The building has been constructed to the highest standard, including sound deadening to the internal wall panels and finished to give a complementary aspect to its surroundings.

The completed work has resulted in a cedar clad water-

front building which stands on stilts above the adjoining marina, with a balcony facing the water and a timber brie soleil (solar shading) to the front elevation. It has been linked to the marina level with walkways, to entice local boat owners to use the restaurant.

The project complies with all aspects of the regulations and achieves a BREAM excellent standard. It has resulted in an exceptional building which complements the high standard of internal finishes.

The developer/owners have ensured that Building Control have been involved at every stage of the work, with exceptional communication between the site team and the building control officers.

Applicant/Contractor:
Swanbridge Developments Ltd

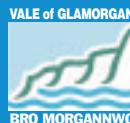
Agent: Holder Mathias
Architects, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff



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Public/Community Buildings



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Applicant: Vale of Glamorgan Council

Agent: Property Services, Civic Offices, Vale of Glamorgan Council

Contractor: Carter Lauren



Cadoxton House, Victoria Park Road, Barry

THIS unit has been constructed on the site of the former Cadoxton House, which was demolished due to its structural condition.

The new unit is also called Cadoxton House and is to be used as a Community Advice Centre, which will be shared by the Vale of Glamorgan

Council and the South Wales Police.

The proposed development has essentially replicated the former building in design.

The site has two-storeys at the front elevation with three-storeys to the rear, and security was especially important.

As the unit is constructed on a split site and the end user is from a vulnerable area of society, a number of complex fire and building issues had to be resolved.

These required a close working relationship with the Client, Architect, Contractor, Fire Service and Building Control.

The site was well managed and a high level of communication between Contractor and Building Control was maintained throughout.

Medical Centre, Cowbridge



Developer: Stepnell Limited
Agent: Powell Dobson Architects of St. Mellons

THIS is a two-storey medical centre with offices for three doctor practices and community care team.

The construction consisted of precast reinforced concrete foundations; steel portal frame with traditional masonry, and

steel sheet roof finish – all completed to an excellent standard.

The contractor's policy was to use local labour throughout the project wherever possible.

The means-of-escape route for the building was an engineering design agreed with the Fire Service, architects and Building Control.

The project was extremely well managed, and on-site teams and designers have produced a quality building.

This has been demonstrated from the foundations through to completion.

All building regulations questions and comments were addressed through the excellent communication between the site manager, the architect, and Building Control.

The Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards. Kindly sponsored by:



Social Housing - Affordable

Jacksons Quay, Site E7, Barry Waterfront

Applicant: Newydd Housing Association Ltd **Agent:** Tony King Architects of Penarth
Contractor: Mi-Space (UK) Ltd/Project Manager - Mark Perry

THE development consisted of 17 dwellings and two blocks of five and six-storey apartments.

They were constructed using precast concrete pile foundations and beam and block floors. The traditional masonry construction includes flat roofs, cream-coloured rendering with colour-rendered panels, and Juliet-type balconies to the front elevations.

A number of the dwellings were constructed in accordance with Code level 3, for sustainable homes.

Throughout the development of this project, numerous site meetings were held with the building contractor and the design team so that any technical issues which arose, were resolved at an early stage.

The high standard of workmanship, specification and the waterfront location make it a highly desirable place in which to live.



Ffordd Elin, Barry

PRIOR to this development, the site was vacant wasteland on an existing Newydd Housing estate.

also attained the coveted Code level 3 under the Code for Sustainable Homes - over and above the energy requirements set out in the Building Regulations.

The exemplary standard of workmanship was evident during the air permeability testing with the results achieved distinctly above the targets set out at the design stage.

A professional attitude and skilled approach was demonstrated by the contractors throughout the project, earning well-deserved praise from all corners.

An excellent relationship was maintained throughout the project between the contractor, architect, building control officer and LABC warranty surveyor.

A quintessential development that fully represents the values and philosophies of the Building Excellence Awards, the Ffordd Elin project is a fitting inclusion in this year's nominations.



Pleased to be nominated for
The Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards
for Jacksons Quay and Fford Elin

Applicant: Newydd Housing Association Ltd

Agent: Tony King Architects of Penarth

Contractor: Neil Morgan, Project Manager c/o Weston Contractors (S. Wales) Ltd



Councillor John Clifford, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, is pleased to be associated with the Council's Building Control Group's ninth 'Building Awards' and wishes every success to the nominees.



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THE Glamorgan GEM is proud to once again co-sponsor the 9th annual Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards.

As the Vale's most widely-read weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular.

As such, it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their professional achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves.

The GEM, too, is pleased to play its part in honouring this Vale success story.

CAROLINE ATTYA, General Manager

ACD Skips

ACD Skips is a family-run company that was set up in Bridgend as a one-lorry operation in 1993.

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The company is progressive, is open to any new waste reduction initiatives, and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

It continues to source waste streams to recycling end-users. Understanding the requirements of its customers, together with good service, remains a top priority.

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JPL Sound & Communications have provided the sound and audio visual equipment to the Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards for a number of years, as well as supplying our services to a lot of other departments within the Vale Council. JPL Sound are pleased to be one of the sponsors of this year's awards ceremony.

In common with many local building contractors who use modern materials in their building designs, we at JPL Sound continue to use the latest technology and ensure that we listen to our customers' requirements when purchasing new equipment.

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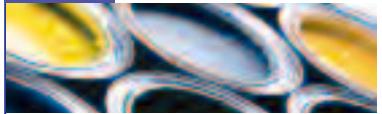
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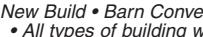
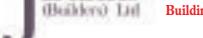
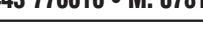
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Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 Gorchymyn Cau Prifffydd (Birds Lane, Y Bont-Faen, Bro Morgannwg) 2012

HYSBYSIR DRWY HYN fed Gweinidogion Cymru wedi gwybod Gorchymyn o dan Atodien 247 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 i awdurdodi cau'r neu'n briffordd a ddigrifir yn Atodien 1 i'r Hysbysiad hwn; i ddarparu ar gyfer y rhannau newydd a briffordd a ddigrifir yn Atodien 2 i'r Hysbysiad hwn ac i wella'r rhan o briffordd a ddigrifir yn Atodien 3 i'r Hysbysiad hwn.

Caiff y cau ei awdurdodi yn unig ar meyr galiog cyllenni'r ddatblygiad a ddigrifir yn Atodien 4 i'r Hysbysiad hwn. Bydd y Gorchymyn yr peidio a chael ethffach os daw'r canolfan cynllunio i ben, neu os diddyrnir y canolfan.

Yn ystod y 6 wythnos o 19 Ionawr 2012 ymlaen, gellir archwilio copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r plan a adeinegyd yn ddi-dali yn swyddfeidd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Bro Morgannwg, Siyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barni, Y Barri CF63 4RT neu gellir ei cael yn ddi-dali o'r cyfeiriad isod drwy ddylymu cyfeirnod Lywodraeth Cymru oA972637. Os bydd unrhyw berson yn dymuno herio dilywedd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddaearfaethau sydd ynddo ar y safi:

- a. nad yw o fewn gwreiddau Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990; neu
- b. bod ei fuddiannau wedi eu rhagfamun i ghweddol gan fethiant i gydnabod ariannu ag unrhyw un neu rai o ethionyn y Ddeddf.

caiff y person iawni, o fewn 6 wythnos o 19 Ionawr 2012, wneud cais i'r Uchel Llys i astud neu dlddylwm'r Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddaearfaeth sydd ynddo.

Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r Hysbysiad ar wefan Lywodraeth Cymru yn www.cymru.gov.uk (Dewis: Ddiddorfaeth-ddeidwyaeth/Offerynnau Amlafatol/Trafniadaeth, Cymru/Gorchymynion Cau TCPA/2012).

M D BURNELL
Trafniadaeth
Y Gangen Orfanyddion
Lywodraeth Cymru

YR ATODELENNI

Atodien 1

(Bras-amcan yw pob mesuriad)

Ddisgrifiad o'r rhan o briffordd sydd i'w darparu o dan y Gorchymyn hwn.

Rhan afreolaidd ei siâp o briffordd, sy'n ymestyn o gefn rhif 14 Stryd Fawr, y Bont-faen i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin hyd at yr Hawl Dramwy Gyhoeddus 6, ac sydd a'i hyd ar y mwyafrif yn 114.66 metr, ei lled ar y mwyafrif yn 3.1 metr a chyfanswm ei harwynebedd yn 275.34 metr sgwâr.

Atodien 2

Ddisgrifiad o'r rhan newydd o briffordd sydd i'w darparu o dan y Gorchymyn hwn.

Rhan afreolaidd ei siâp o briffordd sydd a'i hyd ar y mwyafrif yn 109.8 metr, ei lled ar y mwyafrif yn 2.18 metr a chyfanswm ei harwynebedd yn 204.4 metr sgwâr. Bydd y briffordd newydd yn estyniad i'r Hawl Dramwy Gyhoeddus 6 ac yn ymestyn o'r de ar 5.7 metr i'r goledd-orllewin; yn trio i'r de-ddwyrain am 26.61 metr ac yna i'r goledd-ddwyrain am 77.5 metr, gan gysylltu a'i droffordd gyhoeddus bresennol rhwng rhif 14 ac 16 Stryd Fawr, y Bontfaen.

Atodien 3

Ddisgrifiad o'r rhannau o briffordd sydd i'w gwella o dan y Gorchymyn hwn.

i. Rhan bentyl o briffordd sy'n cynnwys dau ris, tua 11m o'r ymestyn ar Stryd Fawr, sydd a'i hyd ar y mwyafrif yn 11.5 metr, ei lled ar y mwyafrif yn 2.18 metr a chyfanswm ei harwynebedd yn 23.7 metr sgwâr. Bwrdeir godol ramp ym'r lethr gribiau.

ii. Rhan afreolaidd ei siâp o briffordd sydd a'i hyd ar y mwyafrif yn 11 metr, ei lled ar y mwyafrif yn 2.15 metr a chyfanswm ei harwynebedd yn 12.8 metr sgwâr.

iii. Rhan afreolaidd ei siâp o briffordd sydd a'i hyd ar y mwyafrif yn 3.6 metr, ei lled ar y mwyafrif yn 2.1 metr a chyfanswm ei harwynebedd yn 5.19 metr sgwâr.

Atodien 4

Y datblygiad arfaoethol.

Datblygiad defnydd cymysg, sy'n cynnwys ddiwali adeiladau canolfan addio, adeiladau siop fwyd, a uned faneruol ar gyfer mynyddau hebolol bywyd a lard wasanaethu, yn ogystal a 130 o lecodd parcio cer, dargyfeir i llywyr troed cyhoeddus a thriunio, yn unol â'r canolfan cynllunio a rodwyd o dan Ran III o Ddeddf 1990 gan y Cyngor er 7 Medi 2011, o dan y cyfeirnod 2011/00423/FUL.

A copy of this Notice in larger print can be obtained from Welsh Government, Transport, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990
The Stopping Up of Highways
(Birds Lane, Cowbridge,
Vale of Glamorgan) Order 2012**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Welsh Ministers have made an Order under Section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to authorise the stopping up of the area of highway described in Schedule 1 to this Notice; to provide for the new areas of highway described in Schedule 2 to this Notice and to improve the area of highway described in Schedule 3 to this Notice.

The stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable the development described in Schedule 4 of this Notice to be carried out. The Order will cease to have effect if the planning permission expires or is revoked.

During the 6 weeks from 19 January 2012, copies of the Order and the deposited map may be inspected free of charge at the offices of the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT or may be obtained free of charge from the address below quoting the Welsh Government reference A972637.

If any person desires to question the validity of the Order, or of any of the provisions contained therein, on the grounds:

- a. that it is not within the powers of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; or
- b. that their interests have been substantially prejudiced by a failure to comply with any requirements of the Act;

that person may, within 6 weeks of 19 January 2012, apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order, or of any provision contained therein.

A copy of the Order and Notice can be viewed at the Welsh Government's website at www.wales.gov.uk.
(Select: Legislation/Subordinate Legislation/Non-Statutory Instruments/Transport, Wales/TOPA Stopping Up Orders/2012).

M D BURNELL
Transport
Orders Branch
Welsh Government

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1

(All measurements are approximate)

Description of the area of highway to be stopped up under this Order:

An irregularly shaped area of highway which extends from the rear of 14 High Street, Cowbridge in a south westerly direction to Public Right of Way 6 with a maximum length of 114.66 metres, a maximum width of 3.1 metres and a total area of 275.34 square metres.

Schedule 2

Description of the new area of highway to be provided under this Order:

An irregularly shaped area of highway with a maximum length of 109.8 metres, a maximum width of 2 metres and a total area of 204.4 square metres. The new highway will be an extension to Public Right of Way 6 and will run from the south for 5.7 metres north west, turn south east for 28.6 metres then north east for 77.5 metres to connect with the existing public footway between 14-16 High Street, Cowbridge.

Schedule 3

Description of the areas of highway to be improved under this Order:

- i. A rectangular area of highway consisting of 2 steps approximately 11 metres from the entrance on High Street with a maximum length of 11.5 metres, a maximum width of 2.18 metres and a total area of 23.7 square metres. The steps are to be replaced with a ramp.
- ii. An irregularly shaped area of highway with a maximum length of 11 metres, a maximum width of 2.15 metres and a total area of 12.8 square metres.
- iii. An irregularly shaped area of highway with a maximum length of 3.6 metres, a maximum width of 2.1 metres and a total area of 5.19 square metres.

Schedule 4

Proposed Development:

A mixed use development including demolition of garden centre buildings, erection of a food store, 4 non food retail units and service yard plus 138 car parking spaces, renewed public footpath and landscaping in accordance with planning permission granted under Part III of the Act of 1990 by the Council on 7 September 2011 under reference 2011/00423/FUL.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Riot police go on a Commons tour



SOUTH WALES
police officers who were invited to 10 Downing Street, in recognition of their service during the London riots last summer, went on to the Palace of Westminster for a guided tour with Alun Cairns MP for the Vale.

Stephen Rees, a local policing inspector, and Andy Smith, from Central BCU, were given tickets to Prime Minister's Questions, arranged by the MP. They were part of the team from south Wales

deployed to London during the riots.

Mr Cairns said: "It was a privilege to greet and meet the officers. Back in August, I had been particularly proud to see some of their colleagues from the Vale in action, when I visited Peckham during the riots.

"Our local officers had arrived in London in the midst of the violence and showed no fear in seeking to bring order. This visit to Westminster allows us to show our recognition and thanks for all their commitment during some very trying and difficult times."

'RESTORE THE MOBILE LIBRARY'

I AM writing in reply to Mr Colin Wood's recent letter about the reinstatement of the mobile library service in the Vale.

Well, here is an Independent who, if re-elected to the council in May, would also support this essential service being returned to the county.

This is not about being a vote winner, but about helping those who are not able to get out and about to have a service on their doorstep.

So many people relied on this service and for the Conservatives to cut it was, I feel, a cruel act.

I hope Mr Wood would understand that this matter is not about

party politics, but about common sense. I have been approached by residents, including pensioner groups, about the loss of the mobile library service and their wish to have it restored.

With the 2012 local government elections fast approaching, no doubt there will be plenty of discussions and debate on all sorts of issues and I would urge everyone, including Mr Wood, to get involved.

The mobile library is a service that people want and need – and I would, therefore, have no problem in trying to get it reinstated.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry, Independent Member, Vale Council.

Age Alliance lists priorities

MEMBERS of the Vale Housing Federation were invited to the Senedd by Age Alliance for a meeting with the local Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, to discuss their plans for a growing population.

Sarah Rochira, Chair of Alliance Wales, gave an excellent presentation and explained the three main key areas that older people had decided, "after consultation", they would like the Welsh Government to urgently deal with.

Key Message one: Older people and carers must have access to early intervention and preventative care services to help maintain their health and wellbeing.

Key Message two: Older people need access to learning and training to allow them to develop skills that they would need to support them in later life.

Key Message three: Older people must have the support, information and access to reablement services that they would need to regain their independence, and quality of life.

Two older speakers gave a very serious, but amusing, speech from a personal perspective.

Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister, was the last speaker and she gave her support and a commitment to the three key messages.

WINNIE DAVIES

Sully Sports run riot against Newbridge

**SULLY SPORTS
NEWBRIDGE UTD**

**66
0**

AFTER four weeks with no games, Sully Sports kicked off the new year with an excellent victory over Newbridge.

Sports started the game slowly, trying to put moves in place but Newbridge stood strong until Nathan Taylor went over for the opening try.

Full back Wayne Jones soon added the second.

Sports showed that some players had maintained their fitness over Christmas and again put Newbridge under pressure, being awarded a penalty try after flanker John Thomas was tripped as he raced towards the line.

Sports then started getting their plays together, working as a

team, defending well, and often turning defence into attack. The half time score was 21-0.

A few second-half changes in the front row saw Nathan Szuchnik go over for the first of his two tries.

From kick off, some excellent plays from Sports prompted comments from supporters that this was some of the very best rugby.

Attack after attack saw Adam Wheeler score over, justly earned after some storming runs and tackles during the game. Sports showed yet again why they are in the top half of the table, with excellent tackles and defence turning into attack, seeing Dave Stillman scoring after coming off the bench.

The introduction of



Adam Wheeler leads a Sully Sports attack.

Ben Such saw the biggest tackle of the match as he drove his opponent into the ground.

Dean Russell, Jon Blake and Andrew Buckland also went over for well-worked tries. Chris Cummings kicked eight out of 10 conversions, leaving the final score 66-0 to Sports. Well done to all the players, coaches and supporters.

MA

Girl's football is kicking off!

GIRL'S football has really taken off at Dinas Powys over the last few months with the introduction of an under-10s team that currently participates in the South Wales Girls League.

The team has been making excellent progress over recent months and this has been rewarded with three players being selected to play for the SWGL under-10 representative squad.

Chloe Moggridge, Olivia Townsend and Seren Rose were chosen from a pool of 47 players to play for the repre-

Christmas at last for Golf Society

THE December meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, postponed on two occasions leading up to Christmas due to the weather conditions, was held last Thursday at the RAF St Athan Golf club.

Thanks to the co-operation of the club's management team a klaxon start enabled 29 members to start simultaneously with the added advantage of all competitors finishing around the same time.

LW

UNDER-12s IN A TIGHT TUSSLE

THE opening minutes for Cowbridge under-12s' visit to Tondu were promising with all of the action played in the home team's half.

However, from a turn-over in the 22m area, Tondu spun the ball out and, taking advantage of an over-lap, scored the game's first try.

From the restart the Tondu backs launched a succession of attacks towards the visitor's line. Determined tackles by Harrison Ashby, Sam Corkill, Jake Griffiths and Jac Roberts prevented what seemed like an inevitable try.

However, from a line-out on the five-metre line, the Tondu pack produced a driving maul, crossing the line to score a second, unconverted try.

Having resisted further pressure Cowbridge won a defensive five-metre scrum and outside half, Morgan Gore calmly kicked the visitors upfield by a good 30-metre kick.

The ball won at the resulting line-out and improved commitment in the contact area took Cowbridge back into their opponent's half.

Excellent carries by Cameron Roy, Ellis Simon and Dan Marshall earned Cowbridge much needed ground with

the pressure forcing an infringement from Tondu.

After a quick tap taken by Ian Lewis, the ball was passed out to Sam Bluck entering the line and scoring a deserved try. A well struck conversion by Morgan Gore resulted in a 10-7 lead to the home side.

The second half opened with a good series of rucks by Cowbridge but uncharacteristic, careless passing by the backs failed to pose enough menace.

Several times turnovers were won by Tondu and one of their forwards crossed the Cowbridge line again for an unconverted try and a 15-7 lead.

With Cowbridge on the back-foot in their own 22, inspiration came from number 8 and team captain Jac Roberts, who exploded off a ruck and made a good 40 metre before being stopped by a determined Tondu defender.

Minutes later from a scrum, Jac Roberts picked up the ball and, from 15 metres out, weaved his way through Tondu defenders to score a well-earned try. The conversion by Morgan Gore narrowed the gap to 15-12, which was to be the final score.

GD

finished in the frame when taking fourth place with 28 points.

All the main prizewinners received semi final tickets for next week's second leg of the Carling Cup between Cardiff City and Crystal Palace.

Outright favourite and defending champion Brian Jones, still recovering from losing an argument with a bullock, finished with 25 points.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Neil McLean (2), Bryan Owen and also late arrival Chris Rooney, who also won the James Hog Roast sponsored longest drive.

Trevor Wooding correctly guessed 25 balls would fail to return home to win the Premier Turf sponsored prize.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26 at Swansea Bay Golf Club, and will be sponsored by Mr Gino Cocco.

TMCC



Jemma Jones on the offence for Barry ladies.

LONG JOURNEY WORTH IT FOR BARRY LADIES!



Jodie Cole skips past a Welshpool challenge.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mrs Jennifer Pierpoint – 7 Archer Terrace, Penarth – Minor extension to rear of property. Ms Victoria Hall – 16 Hastings Avenue, Penarth – Knock down existing single storey extension to rear of property. Re-build in cavity block work across entirety of elevation to allow for new kitchen. Drop down curb to front of property to allow access for new driveway.

Mrs C Hill – Ty Bronna, Peterston Super Ely – Rear single storey extension, porch extension and loft conversion with new roof.

Mr Ronald Baker – 66 Bron Awelon, Barry – Two storey extension to rear/side of dwelling to provide an annexe for an elderly parent.

Mr G Thomas – Badgers Hollow, Graig Penllyn – Erection of stable on land to the south of Badgers Hollow.

Mr Antony Johansen – Brynlea Hey, The Downs, St Nicholas – Single storey extension. E M Winn Jones – Sycamore, Singtonstone – Pruning back lower branches of sycamore tree located in side garden.

Mr Neil Greenaway – Priory Cottage, Marcross – PV panels on field within site.

Asbri Planning Ltd – Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major – Application for full planning permission for

retention of buildings and to regularise the various development at Rosedew Farm including: 1. Retention of alterations to barn and new lean-to buildings and use of buildings, outside are as function room/wedding venue; 2. Retention of agricultural barn and store; 3. Retention of reinstated barn and lean-to building and use for storage/laundry/boiler room ancillary to the existing holiday cottages at the farm and retention of patio area for the same use.

Mr Peter Marriott – Woodlands Cottage, Llantough, Cowbridge – Side extension with new vehicle access off highway to provide 2 no. additional off road car parking.

Mainei – 21 Windsor Road, Penarth – Proposed re-branding of existing ATM. New surround with signage stating free cash withdrawals in white lettering out of red and blue surround. The new surround is made of 19mm Foamex with a 1mm vinyl lamination.

Dr Ian Ketchell – The Lodge, Dimlands Road, Llantwit Major – New two storey extension to rear (north) side of existing house (on site of existing garage and sitting room). Works to include the demolition of the existing modern flat roof single storey garage and sitting room.

RB

Bridgend Athletic rugby round-up

Second team escape with last gasp draw

THE first fresh cold day of this winter welcomed Llantrisant to Newbridge Fields for this friendly fixture against an Athletic team flying high at the top of the National Second XV League.

Despite accommodating a number of changes from last week's comprehensive league defeat of Glamorgan Wanderers, the home team were confident of stretching their unbeaten sequence.

The Athletic were uncharacteristically imprecise in the contact and with their handling in open play.

Nick Jones at fly-half was unable to control the game or release players into space as Tom Cole usually does, and therefore there was a lack of penetration by the Athletic midfield despite having the lion's share of the early possession.

Llantrisant had their first spell of pressure and threatened the home line for a long period but good defence kept them out. The Athletic cleared

their lines, but a couple of penalty infringements forced them back on the defensive.

Llantrisant stretched the Athletic to the left and from quick ball the fly-half chipped back to his right for the right-wing to gather and shrug off a despairing tackle for the opening score which was converted.

This stung the Athletic into a much more fluent mode.

Second rows Dean Greenslade and Harry Griffiths were working well and No 8 Sean Derrick was carrying the ball with purpose, ably supported by props Rhys Eveden and Lewis Davies.

Following a series of surges with flanker Morgan Thomas to the fore at the visitor's line, the ball was moved to the blind side and a long pass reached newcomer centre Sean Summers, who outflanked the defence to touchdown right in the corner.

Wing Lloyd Pemberton converted magnificently from the touchline to level the scores at half-time.

Llantrisant started

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC
SECONDS
LLANTRISANT

19

strongly in the second-half and a kick ahead just beat the wing to the dead-ball line.

Back came the Athletic with Hywel Davies making his first appearance of the season coming on at fly-half.

His first touch was a chip to the corner for brother Rod, who gathered the ball right on the touch-line. His inside pass back to his brother was just behind and a score was lost.

Almost immediately, Derrick made a strong run and the ball was spun wide to Callum McLeod, whose mazy run ended just short of the line.

As the ball came back Jones popped the ball to captain Nathan Holman for the hooker to crash over in the corner; this time Peanuton could not convert.

Llantrisant continued to force their way into the Bridgend Athletic half and a strong run carried them to within 10 metres of the home line,

but a great turnover by McLeod allowed centre Nick Hinton, replacing Chris McGrath, to throw a long pass to Rod Davies.

He quickly reached the 22 while holding off a Llantrisant defender, and his dummy inside pass caused two covering players to collide and the third man released his hold, allowing the wing to trot in the remaining 60 metres for a fine try converted by Pemberton.

If the Athletic thought everything was sewn up they were very much mistaken.

Llantrisant had the upper hand at the scrum,

and were making good ground with strong runs and effective driving mauls.

They exerted immense pressure on the Athletic line and eventually forced a penalty try.

The last few minutes was all Llantrisant with the Athletic unable to get out of their own half. A strong run by the visitor's scrum-half to 5 metres from the line, then good driving play allowed the equalising score.

Unfortunately for Llantrisant, the winning conversion was just missed.

The Athletic had a lucky escape and will need to be on their mettle for their league visit to UWIC Falcons next week.

MD

PORTHCAWL FOLD
UNDER PRESSURE
AS COWBRIDGE
TAKE CONTROL

LAST Saturday's visitors to the Athletic Field were Porthcawl and Cowbridge secured an all-important win-20.

Cowbridge's performance was patchy but when they played well they looked impressive.

Conditions were dry but soft underfoot as the game kicked off. The first chance fell to Cowbridge after 7 minutes with a penalty for outside half Carwyn Morgan but his kick sailed wide.

Prop David Popham charged down Porthcawl's drop out forcing them back into their 22, but the next few minutes showed what had been going wrong in the past four games, as a series of scrums five metres out and a lineout brought no reward at all.

Indeed it wasn't until the 25th minute that Cowbridge got their act together. Pressure forced a lineout 5 metres out, second row Carwyn Davies took a clean catch, his second row partner Steve Birchenough moved

back to receiver and took the pass to drive over in the corner for an unconverted try.

Five minutes later, following a lineout offence, captain and No 8 Ross Llewellyn took a quick tap penalty and set up a maul.

The ball was spun right for Morgan to put centre Huw Llewellyn clear to the line; Morgan then added the extras.

Then minutes later the best try seen at the ground this season as from the restart the forwards rampaged upfield and with close passing and support involving hooker Luke Adams, Carwyn Davies, Birchenough and Popham, whose all important final pass went back to Birchenough to finish a 65 metre try.

Just before half time, with more driving play, flanker Rhys Jones burst through to the line for an unconverted try for a half time score of 22-0.

Outside half Morgan was showing glimpses of his form before his arm break, but although Cowbridge attacked final passes were going

astray or possession kicked away and the scoreboard didn't move.

Ten minutes in and a number of changes were made with prop Alun John off and Matt Popham on, flanker Jac Williams to the sidelines and Luke Boys moved from centre to flanker. Ed Lakin went to full back and Huw Louher moved up to centre.

Lakin made a couple of good runs but lost his feet when he was nearly clean through. At the midpoint Carwyn Davies and Luke Adams were replaced by Alex Lewis and Rhys Price.

On the 25 minute mark, the ball was spun to outside half Morgan who shimmied through the defence then released prop David Popham on a 20 metre run to the line.

Porthcawl's protests of obstruction were not upheld and Morgan popped over the conversion.

Porthcawl's scrum half tried everything he could to get his team on the scoreboard with darting runs and quick penalties but Cowbridge's defence held firm.

In the dying minutes it took a great tackle by Porthcawl's full back to bring centre Huw Llewellyn down as he raced up the left wing.

The performance was something of a curate's egg, good in parts, but it got the team back on the right lines and there many pluses. However the team must finish off their chances if they are to maintain a challenge at the top.

This Saturday Cowbridge travel to Banwen. The team then are officially next in action on February 11 at home to close rivals Ogmore Vale. JS

RV/RK

Athletic under-11s pushed by Morriston

THIS week saw the Ath under-11 play at home to Morriston.

The visitors kicked off and put the Ath under immediate pressure. Morriston managed to steal the ball from the Ath and go over to score the opening try of the match which was converted.

The Ath managed to get themselves back in the game after Jamie Marshall broke through the visitors defence to score. Connor Fabian converted to level the score at 7-7.

The Ath continued to press well and were rewarded with a second try, scored by Dan O'Sullivan after some good handling set him free.

Connor Fabian converted to make the score 14-7 to the Ath at half time.

The Ath started the second half strongly, and Connor Fabian managed to jink his way over the line to extend the Ath's lead; he converted to make it 21-7.

Some good handling from the Ath saw winger Megan Webb find space to score in the corner for the Ath; Connor Fabian converted to make it 28-7 to the hosts.

The final try of the match went to the Ath. Thomas Reed showed great determination to force his way over the line and ground the ball. Connor Fabian converted to make the final score Bridgend Ath 35, Morriston 7.

Game 2

INITIALLY, it appeared that despite a try from Jay D, Tondu would run away with the game through tackles being missed and players running in from long range.

However, the Cowbridge boys showed enormous commitment culminating in an excellent try by James G, who made a huge contribution throughout.

Tondu scored a further try and really the half time score of 3-2 was not a true reflection of how well the Cowbridge boys

their line-up.

The Ath got the game underway but the visitors took control of the game.

Some good hands from Morriston opened up the Ath defence and saw them score a converted try.

The Ath defended strongly but were unable to prevent the visitors from scoring a further three tries, with two being converted, making the half time score 26-0 to Morriston.

Full credit to the Ath who started the second half well. Some good battling saw Jack Mustoe crash over to score for the Ath; Sam Owen converted to make the score 26-7.

The visitors scored two quick tries which were converted to take the score to 40-7.

Despite the scoreline the Ath kept battling hard and were rewarded for their efforts as Louis King crashed over the line to score.

Sam Owen converted to make the final score Bridgend Ath 14, Morriston 40.

Team: Thomas Anthony, Jack Obbair, Gwilym John, Teo Filius, Kasari Mehta, Ffion Revill, Megan Webb, Dan O'Sullivan, Connor Fabian, Sion Vigus, Sam Veasey, Louis King, Brandy Fookes, Jamie Marshall, Dafydd Beech, Josh Tidy, Thomas Reed, Taine Waite, Jack Jenkins, William Goodhall, Oran Harry, Lance Burn, Charles Creffield, Sam Owen, James Hermon.

BR

Youth gain good victory

PORTHCAWL youth welcomed Celtic to South Road in this Ospreys league encounter and emerged with a 25-0 victory.

A run of good results meant the young seafarers had it was inevitable that the Celtic line would be breached.

What followed was a scintillating display of attacking rugby for the last 20 minutes and fantastic tries were scored by flanker Jack Taylor, full back Matthews and wing Jack Couch, with Matthews also converting.

Although a convincing win in the end, credit must go to Maesteg Celtic who battled hard throughout the game and deserved to get something out of it.

PB

Athletic under-10s in double action

IN a very physical encounter of end to end rugby, the Ath under-10s took the game to Cowbridge.

Cowbridge started with a strong attack, Mason Hughes and Wil Thomas defending well. Cowbridge produced quick ball and ran in a neat try to take the lead 0-5.

Ath quickly regrouped with Bennett leading the charge, and quick hands from Watkins released Owen Thomas to fly up the wing, only to be tackled short of the line.

Ath threw players into the ruck, regained the ball, and Bennett threw a lovely pass to Mason Hughes who put Dewi Harding in to level the score 5-5.

Ath attacked again but Cowbridge picked up the loose ball and sprinted off to take the lead 5-10.

Good phase play saw Ath pressure again, and great strong running again by Pitts saw him score a well earned try, levelling the game 10-10.

Cowbridge pressured the Ath line again but turnover ball quickly given to fly half Bennett, who put in a great clearance kick. After another try, Cowbridge finally found their centre who sped past the Ath defence to score a great individual try for 10-20.

Cowbridge surged forward and the Ath gifted them a scrum 5 metres out. Cowbridge made the most of the opportunity and crashed over to make it 10-25 at half time.

Following many phases and hard yards, a lovely pop pass from Hill allowed Owen Thomas to dive over for a great team try for 15-25.

Ath now had a sense of purpose and stepped up putting in some great tackles. Quick ball along the Ath line drew the Cowbridge defence, quick thinking from Watkins switched the play and gave Harding his second try of the game, and his 100th try for the club, to make it 20-25.

Cowbridge came back with another late try to make the final score 20-30.



Tommy Bowe with the Athletic under-14s

IRELAND STAR PUTS ATHLETIC UNDER-14s THROUGH THEIR PACES

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC under-14s were put through their paces at a training session with Ireland international Tommy Bowe and prop Aaron Jarvis, both from the Ospreys.

Bowe, one of the most dynamic players in international rugby,

joined in the training session and assisted with moves and tips for the squad.

A club spokesman said: "We would like to thank Tom Cole, of Ospreys regional development, for organising the session.

"It was a great evening, all players involved enjoyed the night – even in the mud and the rain!"

Porthcawl youth pushed by the Quins

Porthcawl RFC Youth 5
Cardiff Quins 3

RIGHT: Connor Rees offloading in the tackle

AFTER a long Christmas break, the young Seaweeds were glad to get a game under their belt.

Cardiff Quins arrived at South Road with a side made up of all second and third year players, and had had a good first half to the season, so Porthcawl were expecting a tough physical encounter.

With a cold wind against them, the young Seaweeds coped very well against the bigger team, and matched the visitors in all facets of the game.

Both teams were rusty; however, a scintillating passage of play by

Porthcawl with numerous offloads led to a ruck in the opponents' 22.

Lock Owen Wright came away with the ball and beat a number of defenders to score an excellent team try.

The rest of the first half was very even, with both defences working tirelessly to keep each other out.

The second half started with Porthcawl winning the territory battle.

However, a forage into the Seaweeds half by the Quins caused a bit of pressure and the home side conceded a penalty which was successfully converted.

This can be put down to a combination of difficult conditions and

ring rustiness.

Unfortunately, a number of opportunities for the home side were missed due to handling errors close to the line and penalty points were not taken when they should have been.

This can be put down to a combination of difficult conditions and

knowing they had been

With time running out the Cardiff side tried to play from their own half, but superb defence by the home side knocked them back every time.

The final whistle blew and the young Seaweeds had come through this battle

knowing they had been

in a game and credit must be given to the away side who were powerful throughout.

All in all, an excellent game by both and one

that will benefit each of

them as they restart their

respective league campaigns.

PB



RIGHT: Connor Rees offloading in the tackle

Bryncethin under-11s in Pontyclun thriller

A fresh morning brought a scintillating game of rugby as Bryncethin and Pontyclun under-11s went at each other with commitment and skill aplenty.

A cagey opening saw both sets of players throwing everything at each other. There was some excellent defensive work with Luke Thomas, Josh Napper, Rhys Davies and Morgan Rimron all making some excellent tackles.

The Bryncethin backs were getting plenty of ball and it was quickly passed through the hands to allow Daniel Osarigie to open the scoring.

This was quickly followed by another super move with Jack Thomas and Keiron Dixon combining to set Morgan Stevens free. Unfortunately Bryncethin were denied on this occasion with the covering defence just getting to Morgan in the corner.

Not to be outdone, the home side applied plenty of pressure and were rewarded with an equalising score soon after.

More quick possession allowed Daniel to cross for his second try of the match and Bryncethin were soon to score again through Scott Ryall following good work by Aaron Thomas.

Pontyclun were not to be taken lightly and they struck back soon after to close the gap. With Finlay Mullens pulling the strings at scrum half the ball was getting to the right areas quickly. This allowed Daniel to complete a first half hat trick to give

Bryncethin a 24 – 12 lead at the break. There was to be more of the same in the second half. Some fresh legs for Bryncethin meant that the same pace was kept up. Josh Thomas, Tomas Jones and Jak Thomas all made an immediate impact but it was Pontyclun who scored first to close the gap again.

The ball was being spun wide at every opportunity and only good defence kept Luke Lockyer out. Another barnstorming run saw Scott Ryall score his second of the match but still Pontyclun hit back.

With only one score between the teams it was left to Daniel and his tries try to settle the match in favour of Bryncethin, 38-26.

A pulsating display from both teams gave the watching supporters a thrilling game.

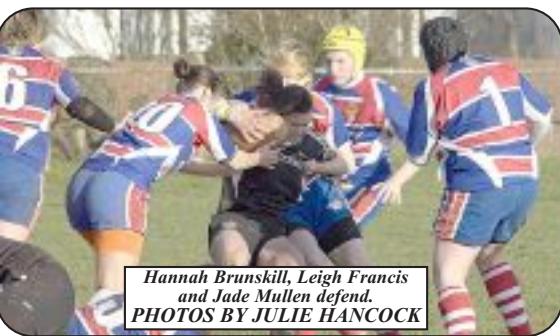
The Bryncethin coaches were delighted with the performance and while there are still parts of the game they need to work on, all of the players can be proud of their mornings work. Well played to all the boys.

Man of the match: Daniel Osarigie – a stunning performance from the captain. Excellent in defence and unouchable in attack.

Squad: Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Morgan Rimron, Luke Lockyer, Tomas Jones, Rhys Davies, Luke Thomas, Scott Ryall, Morgan Stevens, Jak Thomas, Keiron Dixon and Josh Thomas.

RH

Phoenix on the rise against Blackwood



Hannah Brunskill, Leigh Francis and Jade Mullen defend.
PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK

PHOENIX looked strong at the set piece in the opening quarter.

They moved the ball to left wing Hannah Seward following a good scrum. Seward showing a clear pair of heels to the Blackwood defence before being felled by a reckless high tackle, leaving the match official no option but to award a penalty try; Jade Mullen converted.

Phoenix were territorially on top during this period, and following driving play from their pack, Natalie O'Shea crashed over; Mullen converted.

Blackwood looked to get into the match through their pack, and Leigh Francis did well to stop a visitor's charge from a tap penalty.

Phoenix returned to the attack with flanker Amy Stevens unlucky not to get the touchdown following a 40 metre kick and chase.

Phoenix were not to be denied however, and following a well timed pass from Nerys Lloyd, outside half Mullen sped away down the touchline

from around halfway to

PENCOED PHOENIX 28 BLACKWOOD LADIES 5



Jade Mullen on the charge

score, and convert for a home lead of 21-0 at the break.

Blackwood opened the second half strongly, keeping possession well, and only good tackles from Sarah Hughes and Seward kept them at bay.

The visitors continued on the attack and got their reward with a try through their pack.

As the half progressed on the heavy pitch, Phoenix finished strongly and flanker Stevens

TR

Pencoed under-14A win two on the bounce

PENCOED under-14A had a tough weekend of cup ties and with the bad weather and Christmas period, they hadn't played football since the beginning of December.

The first game back was away to Tata Steel, Port Talbot

Pencoed started well with lots of early pressure, and Alex Howland was first to hit a lovely strike but the keeper just got his fingertips to it to keep it from going in.

Pencoed's pressure was excellent and they soon got a well-worked goal scored by Lewis Butler.

Connor Goldsworthy was next to score with Ben Clarke getting the third goal for a halftime score of 3-0 Pencoed.

The second half started very much like the first with Pencoed playing excellent football, and Mason Roach scored to give Pencoed a 4-0 lead.

Ben Gwyther scored a cracking goal to make it 5-0 and Pencoed looked unstoppable and their passing was superb.

Alex Howland got goal six with Dylan Barratt getting the seventh. Ben Gwyther got his second of the game and Rhys Edwards grabbed Pencoed's

ninth and final goal.

In the second game we travelled to Penydarren in the Federation Cup.

Pencoed started well and created chances from the kick off and it wasn't long until Ben Gwyther was first on the score sheet to give Pencoed a 1-0 lead.

Again Pencoed's passing was superb and they didn't let Penydarren get much of the ball.

Mason Roach got a second and third goal, and Connor Goldsworthy got the fourth goal with another coming soon after from Lewis Butler. Just before half time Mason Roach scored his hat trick giving Pencoed a 6-0 lead going into half time.

In the second half Pencoed made a few changes, with Tom Millar scoring a lovely individual goal, giving Pencoed a 7-0 lead.

Pencoed got a little lost and started to make silly errors which resulted in an own goal being scored, but Ben Clarke slotted the ball in the back of the net for a final score of Penydarren 1, Pencoed 8.

Again Penydarren never gave up and kept playing; another big thank you to Penydarren for the hospitality.

CG

Success for Pencoed RFC under-15s

PENCOED under-15s travelled up to the Green Stars for Sunday's match, and had to fight against the gale force winds, as well as the Aberavon pack.

In the first half, it was slow to start for both teams, but Jac Briggs grabbed the ball from the ruck and got over the try line for Pencoed's first try of the day, which was successfully converted by Alex King. The first half ended 7-0.

In the second half, Aberavon Green Stars got a penalty, and then Jason Clatworthy battled through the forces to score Pencoed's second try of the day.

The end result was 19-3 to Pencoed.

Squad: James Merchant, Owain Clarke, Scott Ewing, Morgan Jefferies, Josh Mauder, Jac Briggs, Daniel Maiden, Rhys Brownsell, Chris Cooper, Alex King, Lewis Brennan, Patrick Canham, Jason Clatworthy, Jonathan Clatworthy, Jordan Fox, Ellis Griffiths, Morgan Jones and Jack Pope.

JM



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Birthday Wishes

Happy 15th Birthday
 on January 24
 to
Stephanie Jones



All our love,
 Nan & Gramps
 XXXX

Happy Birthday
Carolyn Bailey
 on 20th January, 2012
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Happy 15th Birthday
 on January 24
 to
Stephanie Jones

All our love,
 Nan & Gramps
 XXXX

The ladies and children of SWALLOW PLAYGROUP would like to thank Lillian Barratt
 for her hard work and dedication over the last 30 years.
Best wishes and good luck in your new home across the border. xxx

Family Notices

SANDERS

Derek

Peacefully on January 13th at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend after a six week illness. Grateful thanks to the nursing and medical team for the excellent care.

Derek was the beloved husband of the late Eileen, dad to Colin, Elizabeth and Andrew, a grandad to nine grandchildren. He was a special person who will be greatly missed by all.

Funeral Service Tuesday, January 24th at 11am at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge followed by cremation at Croychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

JAMES
Edna Irene

Peacefully at University Hospital of Wales Cardiff on January 12th, Edna of Arthur Street, Barry but formerly of Borough Avenue, Barry.

Dearly beloved wife of the late Stanley, much loved mum of David, Linda, Jeff and Hilary, adored nan to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her service in the Chapel on Wednesday, February 1st at 11.00am followed by cremation at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

HARRIS
Jean (Nee Curtis)

23.01.1922 - 14.01.2012

Peacefully on 14th January 2012, aged 89 years. Formerly of Dock View Road, Barry. Wife of the late Reg Harris, much loved Mother to Michael, David & the late Leah & Christopher. Mother in law to Mary & Pat, cherished sister to Grace, Gwen, Hubert, Bill, Bryn, Frank, Graham & Edwin. Delighted grandmother & great-grandmother.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the chapel on Wednesday 25th January 2012 at 12.30pm followed by a committal service at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1.30pm. Colourful attire to be worn please. Family flowers only please. Donations may be sent to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice, St Hilary Court, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF5 6ES.

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New captain at RAF St Athan Golf Club



"FORE!"
New captain Steve Hopkins prepares to split the fairway with his ceremonial drive.

Sea angling club help to raise money for charity

DOW Corning Sea Angling Club held an open sea fishing match at Cold Knap and Porthkerry beaches to raise money for Ashgrove school for autistic children.

Around 100 anglers turned up on an overcast, dry day with a slight easterly wind which can be the curse for many an angler!

At the end of the match, 30 anglers brought fish to the scales and it was local man and Sea View Lads member Aidey Harris who caught 14lb 6ozs of fish, which included a fine 13lb 13ozs conger eel to win.

Second was Gerald John of Gwent/Dow Corning SAC with a 9lb bag of whiting and dogfish.

Third was local angler and tackle shop owner Ray Christoforato, who weighed in with 7lb 14ozs of whiting and dogfish. The weigh in was at the Ship Inn.

Besides fishing prizes, there was also a raffle in which Dow Corning employees, anglers, friends and family raised £600.

The anglers also raised £500, plus a £500 donation from Dow Corning, which raised a total of £1,600 with the help from the following: Sea View Lads, Aspinall Angling Supplies, Barry Angling, Holton Road Angling, Bob's Tackle, Ewenny Angling, Anchorman Charters, The Football Association of Wales, Mike O'Shea (Glamorgan Cricket), Cardiff Blues, LME, Redhall, Severn,

Barrivale Bridge Club latest results

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, January 10 - first, Mike Close and Mick Green with 66.67 per cent; second, Mark Roderick and Mike Best (58.93) and third, Joan Jenkins and Tim Barsby (54.17). Mike & Mick also won on handicap

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. Anyone interested should telephone 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Bery Road, Barry, at 7 p.m.

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Barry under-14s reach the cup quarter finals!

For the second year running, the Barry under-14s have reached the quarter finals of the Blues Cup, having soundly beaten mid-Wales opposition Gwernyfed 39-0 at the Reservoir Field on Sunday, January 15.

Opting to play against the wind Barry started well and the forwards soon got into their stride, gaining a valuable foothold in the opposition's half and releasing quick ruck ball for the backs to launch some decent penetrating attacks.

Punching across the gain line time after time soon paid dividends and full-back Josh Kemp crossed for Barry's first try of the half, converted by captain Cameron Gibbon.

Capitalising on Barry's speed and superior skill in the back division, Gibbon crossed for two well deserved tries

JL

IE



RAF St Athan Golf Club recently held the traditional 'captain's drive-in' with several dozen members assembling to witness the event.

As is customary, BJ Hawkins relinquished the captain's jacket and presented it to Steve Hopkins, who takes the helm throughout the coming year, ably assisted by newly appointed vice-captain Hugh Williams.

Steve appeared relaxed on the first tee, and impressed the spectators with a magnificent drive down the fairway which resulted in Steve Kenyon being the lucky recipient of a bottle of whisky for correctly estimating where the captain's drive would settle.

With the formalities over, the Pee Wee competition was then played in high spirits with a four-ball-better-ball captain versus vice format.

The vice-captain's team usually comes through the strongest in this event, but Steve was ecstatic at the end of the match to discover his team were the victors.

Presentations took place at the notorious

19th hole with Mike Whilding and Chris Davies representing the vice-captain, the overall winning pair carding a magnificent 47 stableford points.

Team players for the captain, Rob Ford and Ray Morgan, were nudged into second place with a very respectable 46 points.

Two's money was awarded to six golfers; Gerhard Thomas, Roger Davidge, Mike Edwards, Rob Ford, Phil Rees and Shaun Wilson.

The clubhouse remained the venue for the rest of the day where the trophy, a chamberpot laden with alcohol, was passed around the winners. The challenging team excelled with their assistance in consuming the contents of the pot and starting the jovial sing-a-long that followed and continued into the early evening.

RAF St Athan Golf Club is a traditional members club; new members of all ages and abilities are warmly welcomed. For more information please contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

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THE FEDS FLY HIGH AT RAF CRANWELL



FEDS: Ed Halls, Zach Cleary, Jordan Tyler, Ed Smith, Jamie Harris, Lloyd Allen, Jordan Ferriday, George Mohammed, David Cadozo, Jasem Shinwari, Alex Bramhill, James Price and Abdi Ahmed.

CARDIFF and Vale College's football team, the FEDS, scored a great victory at a recent tournament held at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire.

The Football Education Development Scheme (FEDS) team – coached by sport lecturer James Young and gym assistant Matthew Roberts – made the long

trek to Lincolnshire for the CCLO football tournament.

The other three teams competing in the tournament were South Birmingham College, Coleg Gwent's Usk Campus and Birmingham Metropolitan College.

The tournament consisted of two semi-finals with the two successful teams competing in the final.

In the semi-final, CAVC was drawn against Coleg Gwent and impressively won 6-2, with the goals coming from Zach Cleary, Jordan Tyler, James Price and a hat trick from Ed Smith.

In the other semi-final, Birmingham Metropolitan were far too strong for South Birmingham winning 11-1. This set up a very

competitive final between Birmingham Metropolitan and Cardiff and Vale College.

"The final was played under extremely windy conditions with Cardiff and Vale playing against the wind in the first half," James Young said.

"We found ourselves 2-1 down at half time but with the wind behind us in the second half we were confident that we could get back into the game.

"After a committed second half the final score was a victorious 3-2 to Cardiff and Vale College with a penalty from captain Ed Halls and a brace from Lloyd Allen. The CAVC team will return next season to defend their title."

CHRISTOPHER BAKER

Tom Shanklin joins all-star charity gala

FORMER Wales and Cardiff Blues player Tom Shanklin is the latest sporting star to join a panel at a special charity rugby gala dinner on Friday, February 10, two days before Wales' Six Nations clash with Scotland in Cardiff.

He joins former Wales captain Gwyn Jones and former Wales and Cardiff players Emrys Lewis and Brynmor Williams, who will give their views on the thrilling World Cup and forthcoming Six Nations tournament, plus answering any questions from guests. The MC will be legendary rugby commentator Huw Llywelyn-Davies.

This special event, in

aid of Velindre's Stepping Stones Appeal supporting Lung Cancer Research, will be held at the Village Hotel in Coryton, Cardiff from 7pm-12.30am. Tickets are £45 each and tables of 10-12 are available. The price includes a drink on arrival, three-course meal, Q and A with the panel, raffle and auction with some fantastic sporting memorabilia.

To book your place at this fantastic event please visit www.velindrefundraising.com or email info@velindrefundraising.com

In January 2009 Velindre Cancer Centre launched its lung cancer research programme (the Stepping Stones Appeal) to increase awareness of its work, and to raise the money necessary to continue to fund and expand its research programmes.

Evan Williams' Kempton success

LUCAINDUBAI, a six-year-old bay gelding trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, won the final race on the card – the Best Odds Guaranteed With WilliamHill.Com Mobile Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park last Saturday.

A 3-1 favourite, Lucaindubai, partnered by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won by half-a-length from Zafranagar and was the second leg of a double for Moloney, who earlier in the day had been successful on Victor Dartnall's Moleskin.

Tim Vaughan's J'Adhere, a winner of its previous race, finished in fourth place.

Veteran Welsh trainer Dai Burchell won the previous race - William Hill-Home Of Betting Handicap Chase - with 16-1 chance Cruchain.

At Warwick, Ffios Las supremo Dai Walters saw his eight-year-old TheHillofuisneach land

the Pertemps Handicap Hurdle under Paddy Brennan.

TheHillofuisneach is trained by Jonjo O'Neill and was landing a three-timer, and could now be bound the the cheltenham National Hunt Festival meeting in March.

EVANS CHANGE OF LUCK
LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had a welcome change of luck when his 11-year-old bay gelding, American Cricket, got home by a neck, despite being two lengths down at the last, when landing the Dove Selling Hurdle at Leicester.

American Cricket, who was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, beat the odds-on favourite Westin' Winds and was a 9-2

BRIAN LEE



Bryn Hafren dance group 'Adrenaline' after their UDO National High School Street Dance Competition victory in Blackpool.

Vale schools perform well in competition

DANCERS from the Vale of Glamorgan 5x60 after school clubs took part in the UDO National High School Street Dance Competition recently in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, to compete against many other schools from across the UK.

The dancers, aged between 11-18 years, competed in team divisions to a judging panel of professional dancers and choreographers – Turbo from Sky One reality show 'Got to Dance', Lee C from BBC 1 TV series 'So You Think You Can Dance', and Twist and Pulse from 'Britain's Got Talent'.

Over 400 teams from primary, secondary schools, and colleges

entered this year across 12 regional heats spread across Britain, engaging with over 4000 school children of varying ages and abilities. 96 teams and 30 duos who qualified took part in the final, across three age categories (years 3-6, 7-9, 10-13).

The schools that represented the Vale were Bryn Hafren and Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. The day was extremely long and tiring for the dancers as all the competition entries were outstanding!

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Bryn Hafren had teams perform to a very high standard in the junior division. Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg's 'Composure' team was Chloe Staples, Kimberley Williams, Tesni Sewell, Elysia Bobbett, Chenice Ludvigsen – and won first place with their outstanding performance and choreographic piece.

They were also announced as the highest-scoring dance crew of the whole competition, winning a mini bus for their school for a year and qualifying to represent Wales and the Vale at the UDO European Championships in Disneyland, Paris in April.

Emma Mallam said:

"I am over the moon with the achievements of Adrenaline Dance Crew. They have worked extremely hard organising and leading their own rehearsals as well as independently mixing their own music score and designing their costumes. They deserved first place and the judge's scores were amazing for their routine."

Seaview Lads latest results

THE year 2011 closed with the club enjoying the support of many members at a competition fished over the Christmas break at the pebbles.

It is worthwhile for all 10 anglers on the day.

Sadly, our base for many years, the Services Social is closing – another victim of the recession – so future meetings will take place elsewhere until we agree a new home.

Shore results:

December 4: First, Micky Langford; Second, Lee Thompson; Third, Kev Gardner; Fourth, John Jones; Fifth, Mark Hillberg; Sixth, Gerald Spiteri.

December 11: First, Lee Thompson; Second, Richard Louther; Third, Micky Langford; Fourth, Aida Harris.

Boat doubles for

2011: First, Bod and Ica, 29lb 12oz; Second, Dan and Dan, 183 lb 8oz; Third, Jeremy and Jake, 166lb 4oz; Fourth, Aka and Jody, 160lb 8oz.

Boat result, October 22, 2011: First, Newrod Rob 52lb 00oz, LSD, Conger, Huss; Second, Micky Langford 42lb 00oz, LSD, Conger; Third, Dan Ladner 18lb 04oz, LSD, Conger, Huss; Fourth, Dennis Day 16lb 00oz, LSD, Conger; Fifth, Russ Phillips 15lb 00oz, Conger; Sixth, Jake Pimme, 13lb 08oz, LSD, Conger; Seventh, Jeremy Pimme, 13lb 04oz, LSD, Conger, Cod; Eighth, Ica, 13lb 00oz, LSD, Thorntack; Ninth, Dan Roderick, 11lb 08oz, LSD, Conger; Tenth, Bod, 08lb 00oz, LSD, Conger.

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Kia Rio offers value for money and good design

by TIM SAUNDERS

VALUE for money and good design don't often go together.

But the third generation Kia Rio hatchback, launched in March, shows that it can.

With a side profile not that dissimilar to the well-styled and curvaceous Seat Ibiza or Leon, the range starts from around £10,500 and rises to just under £15,000.

From inside, the Rio 1.4 diesel tested is a little noisy on start-up, putting it in similar territory to my 2002 plate 1.4-litre diesel Ford Fiesta. It also judders when stationary and could do with a little more sound proofing inside.

Due to seasonal empty roads, there's an adequate opportunity to travel at just 56mph during my 50-mile commute and still arrive at my destination with plenty of time to spare.

Usually I have to drive like a bat out of hell, which doesn't help the environment or my pocket. The rea-



The Kia Rio.

son you buy a 1.4 diesel is for efficiency and the little Rio doesn't let you down here, easily delivering 50mpg. The manufacturer claims it will return a combined reading of as much as 69mpg, but I feel this a little optimistic.

The air conditioning automatically comes on each time the ignition is turned, which might be fine in the summer but wholly unnecessary in the winter. There doesn't seem to be any way of switching this off.

However, overall the well-designed interior is pleasing to the eye and easy to navigate your way round. The

seats are supportive, good quality fabrics have been used, there's a decent driving position and the six-speed gearbox is pretty decisive.

Parkers, the car experts, state: "Kia's latest Rio is no longer the wallflower of old, with a new look and the potential to unsettle European rivals. It isn't as aggressively styled as its sibling, the Picanto, but its striking 'bow-tie' grille and large headlamps give the front end a bold stance."

"The swooping roofline gives it a coupe look, making this Rio much more eye-catching. It's longer,

lower in height and wider than its predecessor, so the new Rio has grown up in more ways than one. Kia has pitched the Rio into the midst of a very competitive class. Its rivals include the Renault Clio, Peugeot 207, Toyota Yaris, Volkswagen Polo and class-leading Ford Fiesta – but they all have a fight on their hands with the new Rio."

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Vale karate club strikes lucky with 'Community Chest' boost

KARATE kids of all ages in the rural Vale have struck it lucky – after a local club was awarded a £1,500 Community Chest grant.

The St Brides Major Karate Jutsu Kai Club's efforts to attract new members have been boosted by the funding, which will be invested into improving facilities and buying a range of new equipment.

Run locally by the Vale Council and agreed by a panel of volunteers, with support from Sport Wales, the Community Chest scheme helps people of all ages in Wales become more active, more often – £1,500 is the maximum grant available.

The St Brides Major Karate Jutsu Kai Club is open to everyone aged from five upwards. Sessions are held every Thursday evening from 6pm at St Brides Major Primary School.

The club encourages members to progress and develop their karate skills at their own pace.

Club instructor Graham Barrie said: "I am extremely grateful to have received the



ABOVE: The St Brides Major Karate Jutsu Kai Club.

Community Chest grant.

karate club, four other clubs received the maximum funding award of £1,500.

Youth rugby has received a boost with ACW Youth Rugby Club planning on using their grant to set up additional youth rugby teams in Wick, while Old Penarthians RFC will be establishing teams at both under-11 and under-6 age levels.

Caerau Vale Trampoline Club and Barry Male Artistic Gymnastics Club will

both be investing their £1,500 awards into improving training standards. Other sports to benefit include basketball, cricket, netball, tennis and sailing.

The deadline for the next round of Community Chest grants in the Vale of Glamorgan is January 27.

If you would like to discuss a potential application, contact the Vale Council's sports and play development team on 01446 704748.

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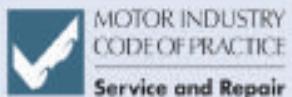
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GEM sport

Bridgend Athletic show character to earn draw

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GLENNSPORTS

RIGHT:

Athletic lock Paul Jones attempts to break through.

B R I D G E N D
Athletic, following a heavy defeat at league leaders Narbeth the previous Saturday, and a similar defeat at UWIC in September, showed a lot of character to hold the free scoring students at home to a low scoring 3-3 draw.

UWIC were quickly out of the blocks and applied early pressure pinning the Athletic inside their half. In an attempt to win the ball the Athletic were penalised for hands in the ruck resulting in Rhys Roberts kicking the penalty to put the students 3 points ahead.

The lead was short lived. Straight from the restart an infringement led to a scrum at which UWIC were themselves penalised for Athletic outside half Tom Cole to kick the penalty to level the scores.

Heavy underfoot conditions made a running spectacle between two traditional open sides difficult and the game was mainly a war of attrition between the packs.

Both defences on the day held out and despite both sides missing penalties and opportunities to



score tries the scoreboard remained untroubled.

For the Athletic prop Rod Apsee, lock Paul Jones and No 8 Tom Penny-Ellis stood out. It was Tom's first game of the season after globetrotting for eight months – he carried well and will be a very positive addition to the side for the remainder of the season, with his ability to play at lock or in the back row.

Wing Lewis Harry was the pick of the Athletic back line making a number of try saving tackles.

The Athletic now need to build on this result and look to be more creative to turn possession into points.

The next two Saturdays see the Athletic visit Carmarthen Athletic for a league and then Swansea Cup tie. **AB**

Youth win

The Athletic youth followed up their fine performance of last week by securing the season's double over a successful Pontypridd outfit in a very hard fought game, winning 6-3.

It took twenty minutes for the Athletic to open the scoring with a penalty from outside half Scott Jones for a late tackle, but this was matched by the home side when the Athletic backs were caught offside, leaving the half time score at 3 points apiece.

The forwards were having a ding dong battle to see who could gain supremacy with the Pontypridd openside having a great game, thwarting the Athletic with some fine turnover

Pencoed fail to do themselves justice in defeat

FOR the second successive season Pencoed did not do themselves justice at Ystalyfera.

Again they travelled under strength due to match day withdrawals through illness and unavailability.

Things started promisingly for Pencoed with outside half Marc Davies kicking a good 35 metre penalty goal.

The opposition responded immediately, some loose midfield defence being exposed for a converted try at the posts.

The home side then increased their lead, player coach Paul James at ten catching the Pencoed defence flat with a short kick for a gift score, which James converted.

Davies then responded with a 45 metre penalty, and at this juncture kept his side in the match with a further penalty for a 14-9 scoreline.

Indiscipline then cost Pencoed, conceding 10 metres at a penalty, and on the back foot could not prevent Ystalyfera getting the touchdown.

Pencoed hit back with a fine try through their threequarters, centre Jeff Hobbs making the half back and good handling saw full back Richie Samuel finish incisively from 40 metres; Davies



Athletic hooker Stuart Nation

Kenfig do double over the Quins



ABOVE: Scott Waller in pursuit PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

KENFIG Hill completed the double over the Quins this season in a tough hard game which was played in excellent spirits with very little foul play.

The Quins pressed hard from the kick off but strong Mules tackling kept them at bay and Kenfig Hill opened the scoring with a well struck penalty by outside half Nicky Giles.

The Quins replied with a penalty by their outside half Matthew Postuma.

The Mules backs, as always, had the upper hand and some tough tackling by the Quins saved them on several occasions before Nicky Giles added two more penalties.

Postuma replying with another penalty.

The Kenfig Hill centre finished off a good passing move with a sprint from the ten yard line to score under the posts, Giles converting.

The second half became a war of attrition with the Quins trying and failing to use their large pack to batter the home side into submission.

The Mules defence was outstanding especially when under pressure on their line.

The Quins scored a try from their own half when the Mules were attacking and a desperate clearance kick was misfielded. Quins left winger Steve Coarross gathered the ball and sprinted from his own half to score.

The Mules were on the attack for the rest of the half and only desperate tackling kept them out for a final score of

Kenfig Hill 16

Aberavon Quins 11.

Hooker Karl Davies was named as the referee's man of the match for Kenfig Hill with some strong performances by captain Gareth Edwards and back rowers Jason Davies and Scott Waller.

Youth product Lee Arrowsmith made a promising league debut in the second row and fellow second rower



Nicky Morgan

KENFIG
Hill/Cornelly Youth
21 Beddau 27

A hard fought game with the youth losing narrowly in this friendly game. Kyle Davies crossed for two tries with Kristian Stenner adding a try.

Tom Davies slotted over three conversions while Luke Turton, Kyle Davies and Lee Rogers had outstanding games for the young Mules.

Blackwood 11

KENFIG
Hill/Cornelly Youth
14 (Welsh Youth
Cup)

Ben Jones stood out, winning the Prince of Wales (Kenfig) award.

Matthew Tossell had a good game in the unfamiliar position of scrum half.

Last weekend Kenfig Hill made the long trek to Aberystwyth for the first game of the year and were given a game to remember by the home side.

The pitch was boggy but the youth played running rugby and scored two superb tries through Lee Arrowsmith and Myle Kennedy, with Lloyd Bradley and Tom Davies putting over a conversion each.

Blackwood tried to batter their way through but the Mules forwards were equal to them.

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